THE NATIONAL BLACK LESBIAN AND GAY

Vol. 3, No. 1
Whole No. 26
January 1991

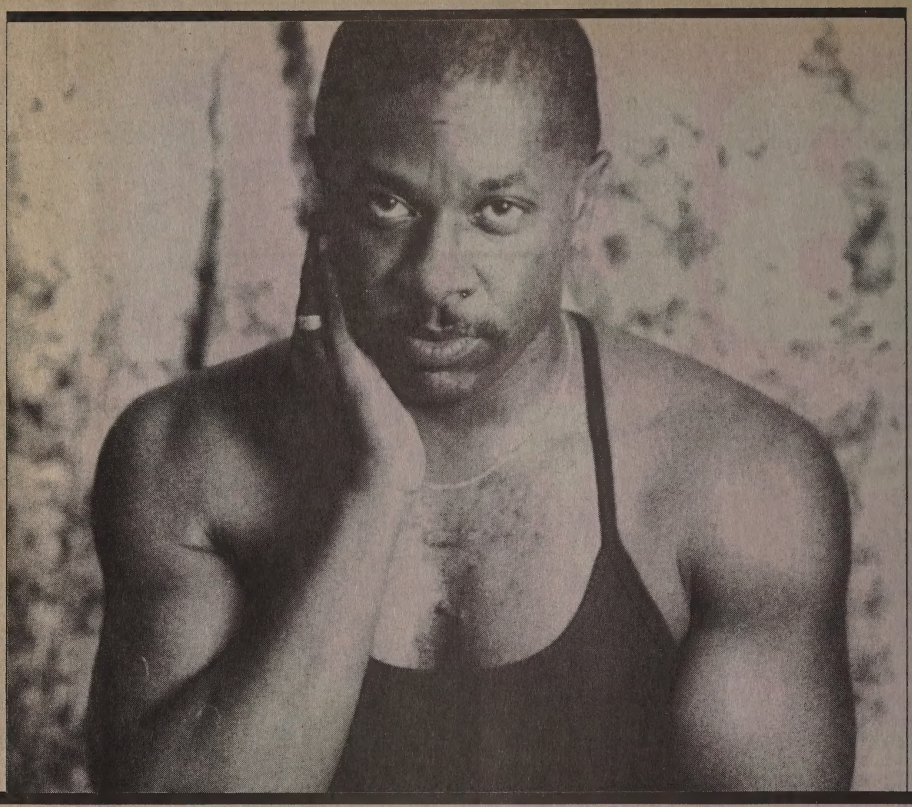
BLK

HISTORY:
AFRICAN-AMERICAN LESBIANS AND GAY MEN BECOME A MOVEMENT

TODAY:
BLACK AND WHITE LESBIANS AND GAY MEN WORK FOR RIGHTS IN SOUTH AFRICA

AS USUAL:
NEWS
CARTOONS
ARTS
WORD UP
CLASSIFIEDS

PLUS:
NEW, LARGER LIPS



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IT ONLY TAKES ABOUT 20 MINUTES

Word Up

News of the Outrageous, the Amusing, the Pathetic and the Unexpected by Leon Miller

The Whitney Houston Watch

This month's Whitney Houston I-am-not-gay quote comes from *USA Today*. In a story which appeared recently, she said, "I'm tired of it, I'm sick of it, I don't want to hear about it anymore."

The story went on to say that things have gotten so hard for Houston and the alleged object of her affection, Robyn Crawford, that they talked about ending their friendship. Crawford, who is now Houston's executive assistant, has been friends with the singer since childhood.

But the two laugh about the controversy now, she says, occasionally deliberately pretending togetherness.

Uh..., yep.

This brings the Houston denial count to six. Previous denials have appeared in *Time, Ladies Home Journal, Life,Fame* and *Essence*.

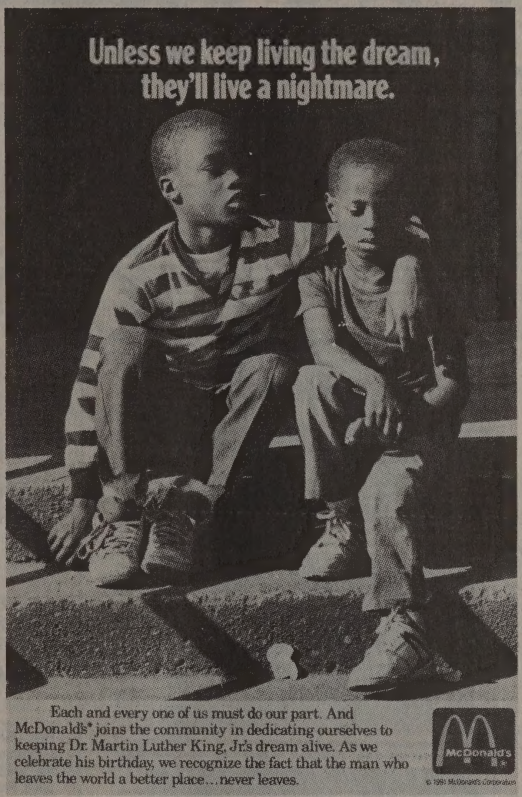
Have I missed any?

Chase's Invisible Events

Ever wonder how people know that May is "Correct Posture Month" or that Stephen King was born Sept. 21 in Portland, Me.?

For 34 years, *Chase's Annual Events,* has been the calendar to end calendars, listing holidays, holy days, national and ethnic days, seasons, astronomical phenomena, festivals and fairs, anniversaries, birthdays, special events and traditional observances of all kinds, all over the world.

Did you know that not only is the fourth of July "Independence Day," but


Unless we keep living the dream, they'll live a nightmare.
Each and every one of us must do our part. And McDonalds® joins the community in dedicating ourselves to keeping Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's dream alive. As we celebrate his birthday, we recognize the fact that the man who leaves the world a better place...never leaves.
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it is "American Redneck Day," founded in Centreville, Md. to "celebrate the work hard, play hard, independent spirit of the rural working class."

I didn't, and I don't much care. But, hey, they just list 'em, not pass judgement on 'em. Or do they?

In 368 pages the publishers managed to mention the word "homosexual" once.

Stonewall? Never heard of it. Harvey Milk's assassination? James Baldwin's and Audre Lorde's birthdays? Who are they? Gay Pride Week? Say what?

African-Americans, as a group, fair significantly better, although there are still glaring omissions. Little things like the anniversary of the Watts Riots and Minister Louis Farrakhan's birthday.

The problem with all this is that *Chase's Annual Events* is the standard in the industry. It's the book that's on every mainstream editor's desk. If *Chase* doesn't list it, it's not worth talking about. (At least, that's the problematic perception.)

On the last page of the book, the editors invite readers to submit suggestions for new entries. So let's do it. Be as complete as possible and send to: Calendar Editor, Chase's Annual Events, 180 N. Michigan Ave. #200, Chicago, Ill. 60601.

You Said *What* Kind of Jobs?

The folks who put together the Gay and Lesbian Organisation of the Witwatersrand (GLOW)'s "A Proposal for a Lesbian and Gay Community Centre for Johannesburg" used clever names for each of their service areas. The proposed restaurant is called GLOWfood, a recreation area is called GLOWbar, and their housing bureau is called GLOWhousing. So guess what they decided to call their employment service. You got it: GLOWjobs.

Call You One, Raise You One

A recent McDonald's ad shows one young black boy with his arms around the other. The picture, which ran during Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday month, is headed, "Unless we keep living the dream, they'll live a nightmare."

Staring at the poignant picture showing one male innocently touching another, I couldn't help but think how worst that nightmare might become if the two turn out to be gay.

Black lesbians and gay men have a dream, too. I wonder if McDonald's knows that.

Tell the Tale

If you find something funny, strange or odd, send it to Leon Miller, BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, Calif. 90083-0912.

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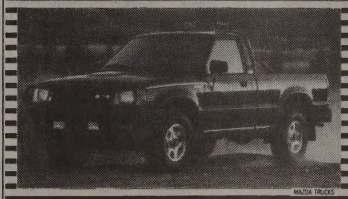

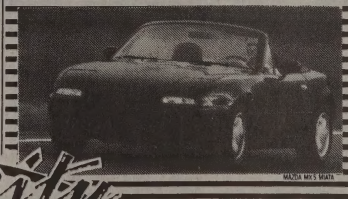

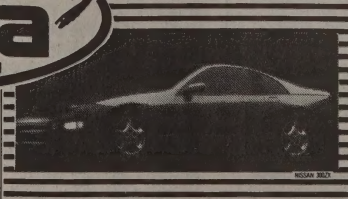

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BLK

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January 1991

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ON THE COVER: Black South Africans in the continent's first lesbian and gay pride march. *Photo by David M. Penney.*

BLK MAIL

Family and Friends

Dear Editor:

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank BLK magazine and Mark Haile for featuring me and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Families Project ["All in the Family," BLK, December 1990].

The issue of family protection for lesbians and men of color grows larger every day. How many of our relationships have been doubly devastated—first by the AIDS virus, and then by the discovery that our unions have no weight in law or society? How many of us have lost custody of our children, lost support of family, friends and church because of our sexual orientation?

Black gay media play such a tremendous role informing and mobilizing our community around the many issues and problems we face in our lives every day. It is vitally important that publications such as BLK be supported by all of us, and applauded for the fine work it does.

I did, however, wish to make one correction and one comment on the article. first, the correction. I was not part of a United Nations monitoring team to South Africa. What I did say was that in 1985, I relocated to New York City to work on a special project with the African National Congress Observer Mission to the United Nations.

Secondly, while I am flattered to be characterized as "the Washington Black lesbian activist out of the closet and out in the field...," I'm afraid I can't support the supposition. There are many lesbian activists of color in Washington who struggle daily to help secure the rights of all people. Mine is a high profile job. That's the only thing that separates me from the majority of my sisters in this movement.

Each of us brings special gifts to this struggle for social justice in which we are now engaged. Hopefully, all of us, as people of color, bring a desire to see the world as it should be and a vow to make it so.

Again, thank you BLK for your kind words and your great work.

Ivy Young
Director
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Families Project
Washington, D.C.

Black Through White Eyes

Dear Editor:

One of the ways that white men who, like myself, profess to love black men have gotten ourselves in a lot of hot water (and boy do those soap suds burn when they get in your eyes!!) is in how we identify with black gay men. No matter how much I believe I would make-a good person of color, I won't get that opportunity in this lifetime, will I? Then again, I'm hardly a stalwart of the "predominantly white gay and lesbian movement" either.

M. Corrine Mackey's commentary ["Black Identity and White Expectations," BLK, December 1990] got me thinking, got me reflecting, along the lines of how well he skewered some of my own *faux pas*, and how off-base this particular opinionated person found his views on other points. Thank you.

For years I've wondered over my own emotional life when my eyes would mist over, say, at a replaying of some Martin Luther King, Jr. speech or over the strident sermons of candidate Jesse Jackson. Oh, how my own heartache echoed those preachers' diapasons!! The whole exultation of victimage got me in my guts good!

Well, I tired of that. It's all about power isn't it? I began to feel that these folks were just playing to the crowd, slipping the wool over our eyes.

White expectations...black expectations, what audience to play to? Well, if you can get comfortable with such an outer-directed formulation of self-acceptance and self-affirmation, be my guest. I for one cannot.

I know a little bit about being forced to wear masks. Mine haven't been black masks, but mine have been gay masks, the masks of a person of—shall we say—limited income, and the mask of a self-acknowledged HIV+ person. Lovely, I assure you. So other people in their multiple capacities often prove inadequate at identifying me just right. So frigging what?? What's one to expect of others? We each only have so much time to inform ourselves of our world and its occupants, and nobody gets it completely right. Some people are just profoundly ignorant.

Less often now do I hold my likes and dislikes up to the scales of others for them to judge and weigh and assess. "Judge for yourself" is becoming my watchword.

Thanks again for the news, features, and opinion pieces your publication brings my way. They enrich my life.

John Dick
Los Angeles, Calif.

Dear Editor:

I have read your essay "Black Identity and White Expectations." Your writings confirm my findings, that the majority (99 percent) of your group—for you are not really a race after centuries of intimate mixing with your (mostly) Caucasian neighbors—has still not been able to overcome your genetic "African" handicap. That is a very unfortunate situation, which proves again the inferiority of your gene-composition, haunting you since the beginning of time. While the Caucasians and the Orientals ascended in their development from their common stone-age background to the present civilization, your group still lives and thinks in stone-age-style.

Thanks to the efforts of the Caucasians, you have been blessed with the advantages of modern civilization—but your minds and souls still linger in the primitivity of your stone-age-mentality.

Allow me, to remind you on your "proud" heritage: Negro-Africa is the most uncivilized place on earth, with a very primitive "culture" (if you want the garbage produced to dignify with the name culture!). Negro-Africa has proven it's inability to exist without Caucasian supervision and massive support from Caucasian countries. Famine, Malnutrition, Sickness, Illiteracy, Bankruptcy, Corruption, Cruelty, Tribal Warfare (among your beloved "brothers"!) and Dictatorships are everywhere in the—from the "horrible white colonialism" liberated—African "states." Negro-Africa regressed immediately to it's stone-age "roots" after the "white oppressors" had left. And—you see—the same has happened here in the United States since the Caucasians allowed you "civil rights" —the unfortunate fact being, that most of you still were not civilized to appreciate this gift! You know about the consequences: Your ghettos—which were just poor 1964—are now the killing-fields for your "brethren," unsafe for all of your people. You have not only "Equal Rights" but have received preferential treatment with "Affirmative Action" etc. for 25 years and you are still on the bottom of our society! What does that fact indicate? You must have inferior genes—for anybody with just average intelligence would have used the (from the Caucasian community offered and paid for) advantages to improve his lifestyle! No, your "group" has constantly been sliding backward into the stone-age, missing the op-

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portunities for improvement! The *first* thing your primitive brethren could think of were riots, looting, arson and murder in good "African-roots-fashion"! Remember Watts (which has still not recovered) and all the other riot-stricken places your savage "brethren" left in the wake of their "fight for Niggerism" ? Like in Negro-Africa, they destroyed their own quarters, got their own people killed, and created more and lasting (Bronx, Brooklyn) miserable living-conditions for "their people"!

Now you may be able to comprehend, why your Caucasian friends feel the way you describe it so eloquently: "The more visibly angry, the more out of control(!) blacks appear, the less acceptable they may be to whites." What do you expect: The civilized and cultured Caucasians—to who you owe everything concerning your high living standard—shall just roll over and play dead, (when your savage brethren threaten their culture and civilization) while keeping on paying for your survival in a civilized western world?

Your "group" in it's arrogant stupidity (see the agitators Sharpton,Jackson and Farrakhan) obviously intends in it's hatred to kill the (Caucasian) goose which lays the golden eggs for their survival! ..... and you think for one moment, the Caucasians will stand for it? Yes, the Caucasian have seen the (not by Negroes financed!) film by Spike Lee: *Do the Right Thing* which gave many of them a good insight into the rotten mentality of your brethren—and they have learned from it. As they learn about your brethren every day from "Representatives of your group" like the great Negro composer and lyricist Luther(!) Campbell, the rather primitive *Arsenio Hall Show* with it's racial slants and the reports about your great politicians like the doper Marion Barry! Not to mention the daily horror-stories about Negro-murderers, Negro-rapists, and all the other Negro-criminals, who terrorize all decent citizens in our country—but especially in predominantly Negro-populated cities, like Washington D.C. (murder-capital), Detroit, Atlanta, etc.

Yes, the Caucasians are learning from you, that the extension of a Caucasian-created bill of rights to uncivilized savages as "your brethren" was a mistake and the correction of it will definitely lead to the—by you predicted—complete alienation. The difference being, that YOU are the cause of it, not the Caucasians who wanted to share their advanced civilization and culture with you, but were rejected in those efforts by your stone-age primitivity, which appears unable to learn from experience (which is a typical trademark of sociopaths and fits a lot of "your people"!).

Remember, the Eurocentric foundation of our country is the only reason for it's attractiveness to all those 3rd and 4th World people, who flood our borders! They want to get away from their colored brethren and all the roots to their miserable homelands and want to share the benefits of Caucasian culture and civilization—but, please feel free to leave and to take all your malcontents with you back to wherever you came from!

Fred Berg
Miami, Fla.

M. Corrine Mackey replies: Ummm. Not much that's original, or even thoughtful, here. I'll give it a 62. It's got some kind of a beat, but you sho can't dance to it.

If you wish to have a letter considered for publication, address it to BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, California 90083-0912. You may also send letters by fax, 24-hours, seven days a week: 213-410-9250. Keep your letter brief, and be sure to include your full name, address and telephone number for verification. Names will be withheld from publication on request. Letters may be edited for purposes of space or clarity.

Saturday • February 9, 1991

•PROGRAM 1 •2 PM to 4 PM •$10 •A

Theatre

"A SONG FOR MY BROTHERS.. TICK..TICK..TICK"

writer-director E. Lloyd Napier

A Song For My Brothers..Tick..Tick..Tick is a riveting and powerful drama. Celebrating the lives of men, women and children who have been challenged and changed forever by the diagnosis of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. AIDS. Some are living. Some are already gone.

Poetry Performance

Readings *by Adele Renault*

One of the strongest new voices on the LA poetry scene – where sexuality is met head on.

Dance • World Premiere

"CHILDREN OF THE NIGHT"

director-choreographer Stephen Semien

Children Of The Night is a fusion of modern jazz dance linked by acappella vocals and poetry. The content of this choreopoem will deal with the cliches, conflicts, joys, victories and sorrows of living in, or on the edge of, Gay America in the 1990's. *Children Of The Night* is dedicated to Mr. Semien's brother, Godfather and friends deceased of AIDS.

Performance Piece

"YUH BETTAH BELIEVE IT"

writer-director E. Lloyd Napier

Yuh Bettah Believe It is a potpourri of socio-political poetry dealing with contemporary issues affecting our society.

•PROGRAM 2 •6 PM* to 8 PM •$15 •A

**Reception begins at 4PM*

Art Exhibit & Videos

Dance

"CHILDREN OF THE NIGHT"

Encore performance of afternoon premiere

Performance Piece

"TRI-SECTIONS"

by Ayofemi Stowe Folayan

Tri-Sections is a celebration of the richness of Folayan's experience as a Black Lesbian with disabilities. It has a dynamic score composed and performed by Debbie Lawrence, also a Black Lesbian woman who is blind.

Theatre • World Premiere

"SAXOPHONE ME, BABY"

playwright Angela Counts

director Gregory Eugene Travis

"Hope thought she'd spend her life dating beautiful black men with unflawed ebony skin, and a style that would put most women to shame...Until she meets the Sax Player, falls for the Song...and his sister."

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Celebration!

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Sunday • February 10, 1991

•4 PM to 6 PM •$5 •SITE A

Champagne Reception

Art Exhibit & Videos

•PROGRAM 3 •6 PM to 8 PM •$10 •A

Entertainment

Black History & Awards Program

The Black History & Awards Program will recognize those persons who have made significant contributions to the African American Gay and Lesbian Community. Deserving individuals will be presented the **Roger V. Pamplin Community Service Award** and the **Alliance Award for Outstanding Cultural Achievement**. The program will include: a skit written by ***Stanley Bennett Clay;*** dancer ***Broderick Wilson;*** vocalist ***Tianna Marquez;*** the ***Voices Of Unity*** choir; other special musical performances and the introduction of the African American Gay & Lesbian National Anthem. The evening promises to be entertaining as well as informative.

Monday • February 11, 1991

•PROGRAM 4 •6:30 PM to 8 PM •$7 •B

Videos

"TINY & RUBY: HELL DIVIN' WOMEN"

by Greta Schiller and Andrea Weiss

Tiny & Ruby is an intimate portrait of the legendary jazz trumpeter Tiny Davis, billed as the "female Louis Armstrong" in the 1940's, and her lover and partner for over 40 years, drummer Ruby Lucas (a.k.a. Renee Phelan). Paying tribute to these two extraordinary women, the film weaves together music, compelling archival material, live performances and an evocative narrative by poet Cheryl Clark.

"WOMEN IN LOVE"

by Sylvia Rhue

Women In Love" by Sylvia Rhue, Ph.D., is an examination of relationships among Black Gay Women. Six women talk about coming out, Lesbian identity, parents, children, friends and how they deal with the outer world. Humor is combined with information for a glimpse into a world too rarely seen.

•PROGRAM 5 •8:30 PM to 10 PM •$7 •B

Videos

"AFFIRMATIONS"

by Marlon Riggs

Divided loyalties, and double prejudice, are the conditions against which Black Gay Men must define their identities and articulate their dreams.

"TONGUES UNTIED"

by Marlon Riggs

Back again, this popular video is an explosive collaboration between Emmy Award-winning director Marlon Riggs and poet Essex Hemphill. This popular exploration of Black Gay life confronts the silence of pain of the unacknowledged and tongue-tied.

Tuesday • February 12, 1991

•6:30 PM to 8 PM •FREE TO ALL •SITE B

Panel Discussion

with Stanley Bennett Clay, Angela Counts, Ayofemi Stowe Folayan, Sylvia Rhue, E. Lloyd Napier, Stephen Semien, Gregory Eugene Travis & Ali Wadud

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•PROGRAM 6 •8:30 PM to 10 PM •$5 •B

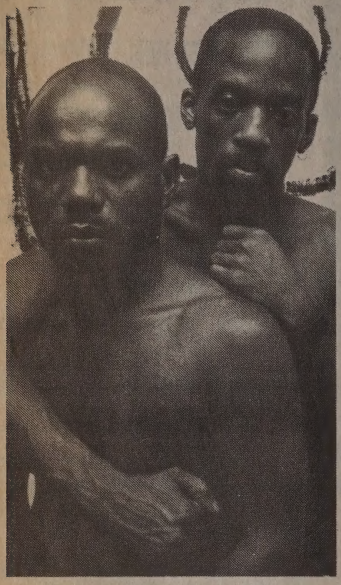
Video

"PARIS IS BURNING"

by Jennie Livingston

This documentary powerfully captures New York's "voguing" trend. They call themselves the Children, Gay Blacks and Latins who on the street or in the clubs join the House Of Channel, The House Of Saint Laurent, or the House Of Ninja, etc. The Children live in two realms: the world of struggling and the world of "Realness".

MARLON RIGGS



National Emmy Award-winning Producer-Director-Writer of the prize-winning documentary ETHNIC NOTIONS, he is a recipient of awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the California Council for the Humanities. In addition to a National Emmy Award, ETHNIC NOTIONS has received top honors in such media showcases as the San Francisco International Film Festival and American Film and Video Festival.

FIVE DOLLAR ADMISSION

IN PERSON: The award winning producer and director of the internationally acclaimed experimental video documentary TONGUES UNTIED will be honored by the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum with the Black Quill Award in memory of James Baldwin. The award will be presented on Sunday, February 17 at 8:00 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Los Angeles, 711 South Hope Street, Los Angeles, California.

RETROSPECTIVE: Excerpts from Mr. Riggs earlier works will be shown, including: LONG TRAIN RUNNING: THE STORY OF THE OAKLAND BLUES, CHANGING IMAGES: MIRRORS OF LIFE, MOLDS OF REALITY, VISIONS TOWARD TOMORROW: IDA LOUISE JACKSON, TONGUES UNTIED and AFFIRMATIONS.

WORLD PREMIERE: The evening will conclude with a showing of Marlon Riggs' latest work, ANTHEM, an eight-minute experimental video, that openly politicizes the erotic, specifically, the homoeroticism of African-American men. Its images are sensuous, sexual, defiant; its words intend to provoke. In an era of pervasive anti-Gay, anti-Black backlash, of hysterical cultural repression, ANTHEM reasserts our "self-evident right" to life and liberty; it provocatively contests narrow essentialist notions of race, manhood, and freedom advanced by ideologues in the White Right as well as the Black Left. The film features the writings of Essex Hemphill, Donald Woods, Colin Robinson, Reggie Jackson and Steve Langley.

Clauras and Wendies

Black and white and colored women and men together in South Africa

By Garry Wotherspoon and Clive Faro

"Oh, I never go to those so-called gay places, man. They's too full of wendies for a claura to feel OK. You know most wot this place is like, man. I jus go to our own places to jol and you can always pick out some guy to go with. And sometimes I come here to the gardens and hang out. But you gotta be careful of the priscillas, man. There's always a priscilla hangin' 'round."

With these words the young black guy finished his assessment of the gay scene in Cape Town and proceeded to quiz us as to what it was really like to live as gay men overseas. In his world, whites, or "wendies," had little time for coloreds, or "clauras," and there was little point in pursuing any contact with white gay men. Standing in the vaguely cruisy byways of the Cape Town city gardens it was easy to see what he meant. There were only a handful of black men cruising, most of whom knew each other and were having long chats while waiting for the next passerby. Their caution with each newcomer underlined the threat posed by the police, known as "priscillas." Many had tales to tell of goodlooking undercover cops on the prowl for an arrest.

COVER STORY

To be young black and gay in South Africa is not easy, and the edge in his voice tells us exactly what he thinks of the handful of gay bars and discos in town. Just last year, for instance, there were a series of articles in the South African gay monthly, *Exit,* about the discriminatory door policy of one of Cape Town's most well-known gay bars, the Oasis. Apparently a capricious doorman—and a vague notion of club membership—succeeded in preventing a number of black gay men from entering the club. But that young man's words portended more. His life has little to do with the bar scene; even if he could afford it, even if he did get through the door, he would have been an unwelcome guest.

In South Africa there are severe legal restrictions against lesbians and gay men. Under common law all homosexual acts, whether in private or not, or even between consenting adults, are illegal. Between 1971 and 1981 alone, charges were brought against more than 750 people. Of these, 448 ended in convictions. And the steady stream of prosecutions are expected to continue. Although specific laws pertaining to lesbians have been abrogated by disuse, there are a range of other laws which affect the lives of lesbians and gay men alike. For example, "public indecency" is defined in South African law as any act which outrages the public's sense of decency or tends to deprave the morals of others. The interpretation of this tautologous provision lies in the hands of individual presiding judges or magistrates. The cases to which this measure has been applied have been wide and varied.

Those who live and love across South Africa's infamous color bar face an array of other legal obstacles, including, for example, the Immorality Act and the Group Areas Act. Sweeping police powers, which in recent times have been greatly extended through the various states of emergency, make gay people especially vulnerable, even in the privacy of their homes. Periodically there have also been attempts to purge sections of the public service and the armed forces of lesbians and gay men. In April 1983, for example, nearly 60 civil servants were fired for being lesbian or gay. Meanwhile the notoriously conservative army has regularly used virulently anti-gay smear tactics against its critics.

Despite these legal restrictions and a repressive moralistic climate, it has been gratifying to witness the vitality and the diversity of the lesbian and gay communities which have emerged in South Africa. There are, for instance, more than 50 organizations which openly identify themselves as lesbian or gay. While the majority of these groups are concentrated in the larger metropolitan areas of Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban and Pretoria, they are spread throughout the country. They range from social groups and athletic teams, religious groups and counseling services, to more narrowly-defined political organizations. Although some, like the gay Music Appreciation Group, have come and gone, others have sprung up. In recent years, too, the various counseling services have expanded their focus to include AIDS support work. Late last year the first Body Positive group was founded in Cape Town. Several cities boast gay centers, which vary in size and function, but broadly serve as places for meetings and as the bases for several of the telephone information and counseling services. And last year Gay Pride was celebrated with Africa's historic first lesbian and gay pride march on Oct. 13 in Johannesburg.

Set on a hill overlooking the heart of Johannesburg, Hillbrow has probably the largest concentration of gay businesses and organizations in the country. Since before the war, the area was known as slightly bohemian. In its diversity, the area resembles New York's Greenwich Village. In recent years, the hilltop enclave which is covered with apartments, has become the closest thing in South Africa to a fully desegregated suburb. It is also one of the few places where the government has turned a blind eye to the actions of those who contravene the Group Areas Act (which regulates where various racial groups can live). Indeed, in one recent case, a racially mixed couple was simply told by police to leave the suburb in which they had been living and to move to either Hillbrow or Soweto.

Concentrated in Hillbrow and fanning out into the city below are a diverse range of commercial gay establishments.

These include restaurants, cafes, clubs, bars and even saunas. Some places, like Mrs. Henderson's and the Dungeon Club—both bars—have been open for a number of years and have even become fairly well-known even in non-gay circles. Others are more recent additions to the gay scene and reflect the influence of gay ghettos abroad.

South Africa's only regularly published lesbian and gay periodical is the free monthly newspaper, *Exit*, now produced in Johannesburg by Gerry Davidson, who recently purchased it from David Moolman. With the demise of his previous paper, *Link/Skakel*, Moolman had set up *Exit* with his own money, and it is due largely to his conviction and personal effort that the paper has become an established part of gay life in South Africa. Today it has a print run of 17,000. Copies are sent to all major libraries; even 28 MPs subscribe to it.

Cape Town, while having the reputation of being a far more relaxed and liberal city, has a smaller commercial gay scene than Johannesburg. A couple of bars there have been operating as gay for a number of years. Suburbs like Sea Point, Gardens and Observatory have high concentrations of lesbians and gay men living there, and are reasonably (but not always) relaxed about racially mixed households. Cape Town also apparently has a strong lesbian network, much of which operates through the women's movement, and which, as one commentator noted, is "very cruisy."

Nestled at the foot of Table Mountain, the city is deservedly famous for its natural beauty. Cape Town also has its fair share of beaches, many of which are secluded and attract an interesting mix of users. One is Sandy Bay, hidden behind the mountain and notorious as an area for nudist activities. Regular police raids notwithstanding, the beach has continued to attract large numbers of people, many of them lesbians and gay men. The atmosphere of the place is pleasantly communal and, on the periphery, cruisy.

An even more unusual spot is Graaf's Pool. Set on the rocks in the middle of Sea Point, this tidal pool is a men-only bathing area. Surrounded by a wall about four feet high, it is probably the only officially sanctioned nude sunbathing area in the whole of South Africa. Predictably spectators flock, and it is astonishing to see how many manage to wedge themselves into the 40 by 20 foot space and still maintain beach decorum and etiquette. At night the whole area is mercilessly spotlit, but the hardy are not deterred and it is vaguely surreal to be walking along the promenade and see in the distance, sticking up above the wall, only the heads of the nocturnal cruisers.

While the bar scene in Cape Town may be small, the city does have a strong gay political presence. Over the last ten years it has been the home to a handful of groups: a periodically active student group at the University of Cape Town (GALA), the first branch of the Gay Association of South Africa (GASA 6010) and the Organization of Lesbian and Gay Activists (OLGA). As in many gay groups, there is often overlapping membership and there is a basic core of individuals who have been active in some or all of the groups over time. OLGA, the most recent of these organizations, locates itself firmly within the broader democratic movement.

GASA 6010, by contrast, has moved away from overt political activity and is now mainly concerned with providing a counseling and support service for lesbians and gay men. A mixed volunteer and professional organization, GASA provides the only 24-hour service of this nature on the African continent. Increasingly the service has come to deal with AIDS-related counseling and provide safe sex information. Most of the 50 or so volunteers who make up the organization and its clientele are predominantly white and male.

This pattern seemed to recur again and again in the organizations we contacted, and it became increasingly clear that the gay communities in South Africa reflect quite closely the divisions of the wider society. Just listening and talking to some of the men at Graaf's Pool graphically demonstrated the differences between the everyday lives of black and white gay men. Many of the white guys were concerned with the declining value of the rand, their prospects in the South Africa of the future, possibilities for immigration and the best ways of getting money out of the country. The few black men there seemed more concerned with how to study in overcrowded homes, how to raise money for education and what jobs—if any—they might be able to get. These are not unrealistic concerns in a country where out of a population of four million whites over 140,000 have attended university, while the 20 million blacks have managed to gain only 25,000 places. Whites hold approximately 90 percent of all professional and managerial positions, while some 85 percent of those classified as laborers are black. The economic dimension to apartheid is inescapable.

Gay groups—and the gay communities in general—reflect these social realities. Predominantly white groups are generally better funded and better organized. Predominantly black groups, when they exist at all, barely manage to survive. For a number of years the African Gay Association (AGA) functioned primarily as a social club for black lesbians and gay men in the Cape Town suburbs of Guguletu and Lanaga. At its peak the group had 60 members; today the group is defunct.

According to some black gay men, one of the greatest needs in the townships is for more social space for lesbians and gay men to meet. Many gay men who live in the black townships are, in fact, married and have families, and simply cannot take up the lifestyles of their more affluent, single, white counterparts in the cities. These concerns have been central to two predominantly black organizations which have been established in the last few years: the now defunct Rand Gay Organization (RGO), and the more recent Gay and Lesbian Organization of the Witwatersrand (GLOW). According to Linda Ngcobo, general secretary of GLOW, one of the group's highest priorities is to secure a social meeting space in Soweto. A number of group meetings have already taken place at the Glowbar, a "bar" set in a private home. (For a short time, Glowbar ventured out of its residential setting into commercial quarters. It has since become residential again.) Eventually, GLOW wants to set up a community center where various groups can meet. Organizers also want desperately to provide counseling services. They already have started an employment agency and have plans to set up a housing bureau. This seems a far cry from the gala events of last year's Gay Pride Week.

The problem of AIDS within South Africa's black communities has hardly been addressed. Siphiwe "Alfred" Machela, a medical doctor and prominent member of RGO, worked long and hard to establish AIDS health care and information programs in the townships. The resulting Township AIDS Project, begun as a part of GLOW and now its own organization, will employ a gay person to develop educational materials in the different languages spoken by black South Africans. (Machela has since left South Africa.) Assistance from abroad, particularly Norway, Canada and the International Lesbian and Gay Association, made this possible.

As one would expect in such a society, there are strong divisions within the gay communities in South Africa about the direction gay political activism should take. Most of the smaller progressive groups are set within the parameters of

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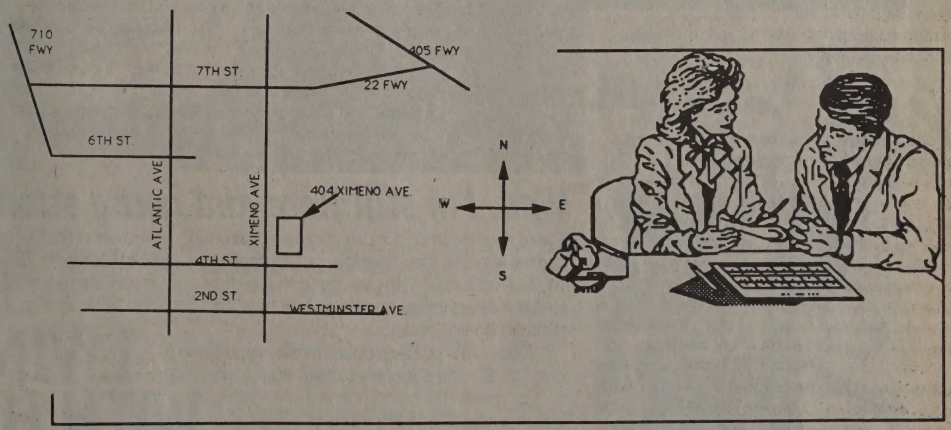

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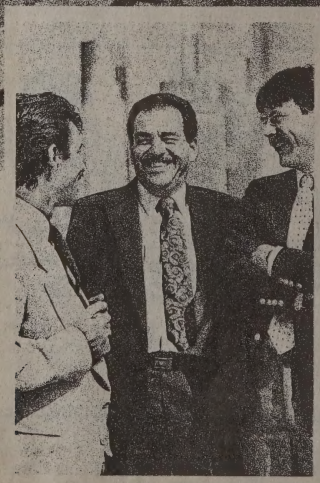

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comprehensive left wing politics. As Julia Nicol and Sheila Lapinsky, two founding members of OLGA, have emphasized, they are working towards a democratic South Africa by opposing all forms of oppression: racism, economic exploitation and sexism as well as discrimination against lesbians and gay men.

But not all gay activists take this approach. During his reign as *Exit* editor, Moolman generally avoided involving the paper in issues, particularly "race issues" which he saw as not having a specific bearing on being gay. His reply to criticism was that "there are umpteen other newspapers fighting the race issue...but nobody else fights the gay issue." He also suggested that by avoiding these issues there was less chance of drawing the wrath of the government emergency powers against *Exit*. This could lead to the closing of the paper, he said, depriving South Africa of its only gay mouthpiece.

While few disapproved of Moolman's general aim—"to allow gay people to be natural and live in dignity and pride and with self respect"—many who felt his vision of achieving this separate from other major issues that confront South African society was somewhat naïve. Moolman's critics argued that it was crucial to locate the struggle of gay people in a broader political context, not only as a fight for basic democracy but also to increase the awareness of those already inside the democratic movement of the importance of gay rights. Under Davidson's direction, *Exit* has become considerably more progressive.

While there had been some anti-gay sentiments expressed by parts of the democratic movement, a recent official statement by the African National Congress (ANC) has suggested that in post-revolutionary South Africa anti-gay discrimination would not be tolerated: "ANC policy towards gays and lesbians, and towards other groups in South Africa which are discriminated against, has to be the same because it is an issue of principle enshrined in our Freedom Charter. The *raison d'être* of the ANC's existence is to fight discrimination, and deprivation of gays and lesbians cannot be excluded from that process."

The issuing of such an unequivocal statement by what many regard as the future government of South Africa has also had other benefits. As Lapinsky notes: "Many of the anti-apartheid groups have become less homophobic. They are increasingly inclined to accept their gay members and support gay rights as part of a free South Africa. In turn, this is radicalizing the lesbian and gay community and drawing more lesbians and gays into the liberation struggle."

One result of this activity has been the incorporation of an anti-discrimination plank in the proposed Bill or Rights for a New South Africa. Article 7, paragraph 2 reads, "Discrimination on the grounds of gender, single parenthood, legitimacy of birth or sexual orientation shall be unlawful." This section of the New Constitution, to take effect when South Africa becomes a free state, will move that nation from one of the most repressive regimes in the world to one of the handful to actually afford equal protection to lesbians and gay men under the law. This came about because of intense lobbying efforts by OLGA. Significantly, the group has become accepted as a member of the United Democratic Front, South Africa's consortium of anti-apartheid organizations, representing over 600 groups with more than one million members.

Lesbians and gay men have made, and continue to make, important contributions to the democratic movement at all levels. For many progressive lesbians, the focus of their work against apartheid is the host of women's groups—many of them feminist- -which exist in South Africa. Even the Black Sash, an established and highly respected liberal women's organization, has acknowledged the contribution lesbians have made.

And it appears that openly gay people are increasingly coming to prominence in the anti-apartheid movement. Lapinsky, for example, was subject to a five-year government banning order in the mid-70s because of her political activities as general secretary of the National Union of South African Students. A more recent case which has drawn international attention is that of Ivan Toms. A medical doctor who worked in the poor black squatter camps of Crossroads in 1988, and—until it was effectively banned—was vice-chairman of the End Conscription Campaign (ECC), Toms last year refused to serve any more time in the South African army. Because of his stand he became involved in a very public battle with the government. A politically astute organization with strong grassroots support, the ECC tapped directly into the misgivings felt by many in the white community regarding conscription and the role of the South African army. For its efforts, ECC has felt the government's wrath. In one swoop alone in 1986 the government raided 93 of its members' homes and detained more than 60. Toms himself went to jail for nine months.

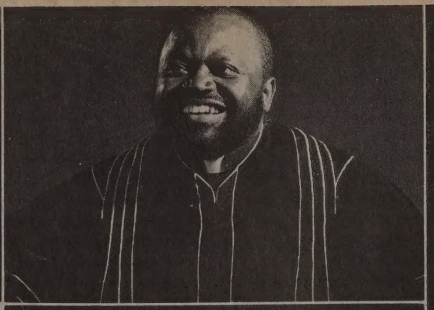
Throughout his confrontation with the government Toms made no attempt to hide the fact that he was gay. Since he also happened to be a Christian and a member of the Anglican Church, it is interesting to note the very public support he has received from prominent church leader, including Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Rev. Allan Boesak and Rabbi Selwyn Franklin. Toms faces further jail terms if he is unsuccessful in his appeal against the South African government. Still, his commitment is unwavering: "...South Africa is in a state of civil war and we have to take sides. I believe that the side of justice and truth is the side of the poor and oppressed in our country...I am committed to South Africa and believe that the truly patriotic action for me is to go to prison rather than deny my faith and my beliefs."

Likewise the name of Tseko Simon Nkoli has achieved some international prominence. As one of a group charged in the Delmas Treason Trial [BLK, "Simon Nkoli," August 1989], Nkoli faced the death penalty before he was eventually acquitted. He too has been involved in a broad range of protests against the government going back many years, and had been charged with, among other things, furthering the aims of the then outlawed ANC, inciting people to subversion, terrorism and murder.

Since his acquittal, Nkoli set up GLOW, work that he firmly locates within the broader political movement: "The struggle for lesbian and gay rights is an inseparable part of the struggle for the human rights of all South Africans." Or, as Toms puts it: "You cannot choose which oppression you fight...racism, sexism, homophobia are all bound together."

The abiding impression created by people like Lapinsky, Machela, Toms and Nkoli is of deep conviction and commitment in the face of great odds. Many of them have been, and continue to live, under police surveillance of one sort or another, and there is the constant threat of detention—indefinite detention. In addition, they have to contend with petty annoyances like slashed tires and mysterious phone calls plus more significant affronts like public smear campaigns and death threats. But they stand firm in their resolve, as openly gay men and women, to speak out and to work toward a truly democratic South Africa.

In an editorial celebrating the historic gay pride march, Davidson wrote, "This year we can congratulate ourselves on the gains the gay community has made in both pride and visibility...Farewell to 1990 with its joys and pains and hail 1991. What will it bring? What it brings will be influenced by what we as lesbians and gay men contribute to our fight for equal rights for ourselves and others."



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Becoming a Movement

The Growth of Group Consciousness in Black Gay Men and Lesbian Women

By Rodney Christopher

The sociopolitical movement of African-American gay men is largely a result of historical change in American society regarding the questions of race, gender and sexual orientation. Unlike white gays and lesbians who began organizing politically in the U.S. in the 1950s, black gay men and lesbian women could not consider their sexual orientation to be a part of their personal and political identity, and more importantly they could not recognize the importance of organizing on both their race and sexual orientation, until African-Americans had gained the legislative rights and economic opportunities won because of the Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s. After that time, it was the effort and oversights of the gay rights movement and the women's movement that demonstrated the importance of organizing African-American lesbian women and gay men.

HISTORY

Racism is extremely pervasive. Although slavery ended officially in 1863, for the next century, "Jim Crow" laws and practice legitimized the separation of public accommodations and communities along racial lines in the South. The North was not extremely different. There African-Americans were not allowed to live in many places because of racism, instead forming what are now called inner-cities or rural pockets. The result of such rigid segregation can be seen by looking at the current economic position and health status of African-Americans. According to the Bureau of the Census, in 1986 33.5 percent of African-American families earned less than $12,500 compared to only 14.7 percent of white families. As for life expectancy, a black child born in Cuba, the per capita income of which is approximately 10 percent of that of the U.S., will live longer, and has a better chance of reaching the age of five, than a black child born within a fifty mile radius of the White House.

Because race has been such a huge determining factor of one's life chances, colored or Negro or black has been, for most African-Americans, the most important factor in the shaping of our identity as human beings. The overwhelming historical significance of race, then, has made it virtually impossible for the large part of the community of black gay men and black lesbian women to consider their sexuality as integral to their identity, especially on a political—that is, public—level. They have had to see their sexual orientation as private and secondary.

Being homosexual, regardless of race, is a taboo in a great many parts of the world. (The terms gay and lesbian themselves are political and were not used frequently before the late 1960s. Prior to this, the common term was homosexual.) There have been, and still are, very strict anti-sodomy laws on the books in many states and countries, and the anti-homosexual influence in the Bible, with story of Sodom and Gomorrah and several lines in the book of Leviticus, has greatly affected the codes of living in Western society.

Nonetheless, homosexuals have not always conformed to those societal rules that have attempted to deny their existence and persecute them. Many have made great strides toward changing them, mostly within Western, or capitalist, society. Historian Barry D. Adam, in *The Rise of a Gay and Lesbian Movement*, argues that capitalist society created the preconditions that led to the lesbian and gay sociopolitical movement in the U.S. and parts of Europe. He suggests that the tendency of capitalist society to create massive social mobility and to allow for the possibility of living away from large families created a homosexual subculture and its subsequent sociopolitical movement.

For many years, as far back as the 1700s in Europe, there has been a primarily white homosexual subculture in Western cities. It is marked by bars and social clubs mostly for men. Women sometimes frequented these bars, but were generally the minority. Those who discovered their homosexuality knew that they would not be accepted into the mainstream of society, and instead began to create spaces in which they could be relatively comfortable with their sexuality. Their comfort was limited because the bars were frequently raided by police and people were often arrested for patronizing them. It was this limited comfort which later led some lesbian women and gay men to form organizations to gain rights for themselves.

African-American homosexuals—both men and women—were indeed a part of this phenomenon; several bars that arose in the U.S. had a largely black homosexual clientele. One city that became notorious for its black night life and culture was New York City. By the end of the 19th century, Harlem was the cultural base of the African-American community. The longest continuously operating gay events in American history were the lavish black homosexual drag balls in Harlem that began in the 1890s. The Savoy Ballroom, originally at Lenox and 140th St., was known to house these gala events in the 1920s.

There are both positive and negative consequences to the emergence of this homosexual subculture. The creation of private spaces like bars gave people opportunity to spend their leisure time comfortably as openly lesbian or gay. In these social settings people can let go of the façade of being "straight"; within their subculture, people are free to be themselves. However while it is clear that the homosexual subculture had to be hidden, the mere existence of a subculture maintains the premise that being gay or lesbian is at best a "private" issue and at worst, a cause for self-hatred.

Despite the safety of being hidden, both from the larger society and the black community, there have been times in the history of African-Americans when individual people who were gay or lesbian (or bisexual) have become public figures. However, these individuals have been recognized for their contributions to the black community: the black community

has generally avoided the question of their sexuality and the individuals themselves have chosen not to be politically gay.

The Harlem Renaissance was one such period. From roughly 1919 to 1934, Harlem presented an opportunity for members of the growing Negro elite to express themselves. Several members of this elite were gay or lesbian, and, while their sexuality was certainly not sanctioned, it was tolerated by their contemporaries: "rumors aside, Harlem always ignored or forgave everything of its best and brightest."

Many of the artists and writers who became famous during the Renaissance did so with the help of an influential group of philanthropists known as "The Six": Jessie Redmon Fauset, Charles Johnson, Alain Locke, Walter White, Casper Holsteing and James Weldon Johnson. Each of these people had the means to give "emergency loans and temporary beds, professional advice and Downtown contracts, prizes and publicity," to struggling talents. They were all members of the Harlem elite, each having a prestigious college education, and they were relatively wealthy—some more than others. "Without these six, the Harlem roster of 26 novels, ten volumes of poetry, five Broadway plays, innumerable essays and short stories, two or three performed ballets and concerti, and the large output of canvas and sculpture would have been a great deal shorter."

The longest continuously operating gay events in American history were the lavish black homosexual drag balls in Harlem that began in the 1890s.

Alain Locke, who was more capable of offering financial assistance to Renaissance artists than all but one of the "The Six," was a black gay man. Locke's father was a member of the fourth class to graduate from Howard University's law department. Locke was a *magna cum laude* graduate of Harvard University, the first African-American Rhodes scholar at Oxford University, and, later, a professor at Howard. He was also a good friend of W.E.B. DuBoise; Locke and DuBoise "were among the most scrupulously educated Americans."

In 1925, Locke's *The New Negro,* an anthology of work by 34 African-Americans and four whites, was published. The theme of the anthology was based on Locke's "conviction that the race's 'more immediate hope rests in the revelation by white and black alike of the Negro in terms of his artistic endowments and cultural contributions, past and prospective.' " As a result of the book, the term "The New Negro" began to be used to describe the cultural elite who, like Locke, seemed to believe that racism could be ended by generating universal respect for the cultural expressions of blacks. Locke's contribution, like that of most everyone involved in the Harlem Renaissance, was to the black community at-large. While those who knew him well were aware that he was a homosexual, Locke's gayness was never a part of his political and public identity.

Perhaps the most noted of those whom Locke assisted was James Mercer Langston Hughes. Hughes is one of the most revered black writers of all time. His poems are included in all kinds of anthologies, both "American" and African-American. One of his most famous pieces is a short poem called "I, too." Its theme is a call for the world to recognize that African-Americans are not invisible, that they are a part of the U.S. The first line reads "I, too sing America," the last states "I, too am American." Because Hughes never married and was very good friends with several men known to be homosexual, speculation about his sexuality has been widespread. While no one is certain, several historians claim that it is very likely that he, too, sang black gay American.

The first piece of fiction to explore the theme of black homosexuality was published during the Harlem Renaissance; its writer was Richard Bruce Nugent. In 1926, his short story "Smoke, Lillies, and Jade" was published in the short-lived journal *Fire!!* This short story was reprinted in *Black Men / White Men: A Gay Anthology,* and is mentioned in both Joseph Beam's *In the Life: A Black Gay Anthology,* and *Other Countries: Black Gay Voices,* the latter two being significant contributions to a recent surge in published black gay male literature. There were several other talents from the Harlem Renaissance who were African-American homosexual men and women, but that is outside the scope of this article.

The next period that held significance for the growing group-consciousness of black gay men and black lesbian women was the Civil Rights Movement. It was during these years that the emergence of James Baldwin created some turmoil in the social fabric of American culture. Baldwin's *Giovanni's Room,* published in 1956 and set in Paris, is a story of love between men. Perhaps the most controversial piece of writing on the issue of race that has been published in the United States was his *The Fire Next Time,* published in 1963. It was in this work that Baldwin called upon his nephew to "...accept them [whites]...accept them with love. For these innocent people have no other hope. They are, in effect still trapped in a history which they do not understand."

Unfortunately for the community of African-American gay men and lesbian women, Baldwin was not politically gay; in an interview with the editor of *The Black Scholar* he stated, "I love men but I am not homosexual." He insisted that his sexuality was a private matter, either unwilling or unable to recognize the significance of being "out." While he did realize that people who were black and gay, a word whose meaning he "never really understood" were at a greater disadvantage than white gays, he never took on that reality as a political issue worthy of his energies.

But, this is not to underestimate the significance of James Baldwin for the community of black gay men and lesbian women. Despite his insistence that his gayness should remain private, Baldwin was never afraid to say that he loved men; neither was he afraid to write about it. In 1979, Baldwin completed and published the first full-length novel that deals with the experience of black gay men in the United States, *Just Above My Head.* Bayard Rustin was also a major figure during the civil rights movement. He was the principal organizer for the 1963 March on Washington. Most of the country was not privy to the knowledge of Rustin's sexual orientation, but many of the leaders of the civil rights movement did know of it. Unfortunately, but not surprisingly, the leaders asked Rustin to keep his "private" life private; the "black" agenda had to be pushed first. Fortunately, in 1985, Rustin began to speak out about being black and gay. Before his death in 1987, he had done full-length interviews

JEWEL'S

Catch One

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February 1991

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 6 p.m.-4 a.m.: Party Animal Night	**2**
3 Black History Program/Pro Bowl Party	**4** Bid Whist Weekly Tournament	**5** 8:30 p.m.: Weekly Video Karoke Sing-Along	**6**	**7**	**8** Mardi Gras King and Queen Coronation	**9** 9 p.m.: Mardi Gras Carnival
10 Black History Program	**11**	**12**	**13** East Coat Sleeze Party/After Hours	**14** 9 p.m.: Valentine's Day Ball	**15** 4th Annual National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference	**16**
17 6 p.m.: Black History Program/Catch One After Hours	**18** Bid Whist Weekly Tournament	**19** 8:30 p.m.: Weekly Video Karoke Sing-Along	**20**	**21**	**22** 6 p.m.-4 a.m.: Party Animal Night	**23**
24 Black History Program Celebration	**25**	**26** 8:30 p.m.: Weekly Video Karoke Sing-Along	**27** Full Moon Celebration	**28**		

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CATCH ONE Cocaine Anonymous and Alcohol Anonymous Annual Birthday Party Sunday, March 3 at 4 p.m. Owner Jewel Thaïs-Williams and friends celebrate their lives free of drugs and substances. Jewel's Room is open for business as usual.

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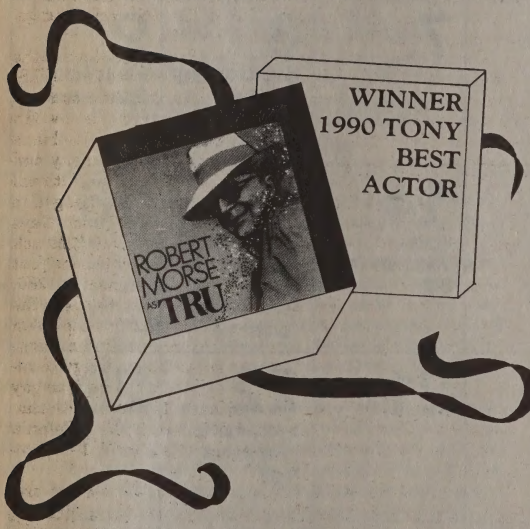

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for at least two important publications in the black lesbian and gay community, *Black / Out,* and *Other Countries: Black Gay Voices.*

At approximately the same time that the civil rights movement was forgoing ahead to end racism, a movement for homosexual rights was working to end homophobia in the United States. The "homophile" movement, as it was called, was made up of organizations in several cities, the most well-known of which were the Mattachine Society, a national organization comprised primarily of white gay men that began in Los Angeles in 1951 and had chapters in several major cities, and the Daughters of Bilitis (DOB), a similar organization comprised primarily of white lesbian women that began in San Francisco in 1955. The most significant contribution of this movement was that it gave people an opportunity to begin to question the idea that homosexuality is taboo.

The homophile movement, while it made some strides, was largely a conservative and assimilationist, middle-to-upper-class, white, male movement. The Mattachine Society spent much of its energy trying to convince homosexuals that the road to equality was to "stress the common humanity of homosexuals and heterosexuals and keep sexuality as such private," while DOB included in its objectives "advocating a mode of behavior and dress acceptable to society," "participation in research projects," and "investigation of the penal code as it pertains to the homosexual...and promotion of these changes through the due process of law in the state legislatures." The leaders of the homophile Movement were unwilling to accept homosexuals who frequented "the bar scene" and generally treated them as second-class homosexuals. This did not help to generate a mass movement because most of the people who would have been likely to join the movement were those who went to the bars.

Several gay men and lesbian women attempted to push a more radical agenda. They wanted to include and encompass those who went to the bars, and they wanted to become more political; many wanted to use tactics like those employed during the Civil Rights movement. But the time had not yet come. Those in control of the movement did not want to jeopardize their economic status by becoming openly and politically gay and lesbian.

The times began to change when, on a hot June night in New York City in 1969, one of the less "classy" gay bars that was frequented by African-American and Latino lesbians and gays was the target of a police raid, a long-standing tradition of New York's finest. However, this time the mostly black and Latino gays and lesbians, drag queens, hustlers, and jailbait juveniles did not run away. They fought back, throwing pennies, bottles, and bricks at the police. Anti-riot squads that were created for use in Harlem were sent in to clear the area. In the end, 13 people were arrested and four policemen were slightly injured. "The Stonewall Riots" lasted for two nights and, because of their militancy, they are seen as the impetus for the modern gay rights, gay pride movement. The sheer strength displayed at Stonewall helped to give gays and lesbians the inspiration to begin addressing a more radical agenda then the homophile movement did.

Despite the contribution that African-Americans and Latinos made to starting the gay rights movement, that movement did not make much of an effort to respond to the problems and needs of gays and lesbians of color. Like its predecessor the homophile movement, this new movement was quickly dominated by white gay men. As the gay pride movement progressed, black lesbians and gays and white lesbians began to realize that while the leadership may have shared their common interest in ending homophobia, these while male leaders were not as interested in giving up the power that their whiteness and maleness afforded them in American society.

As a result, several splits in political organization began to happen in the early 1970s. Sexism in the gay pride movement and homophobia in the women's movement led to a lesbian and radicalesbian movement. As a result of an increase in blacks earning a college education in the 1970s—which was in large part due to Affirmative Action, a product of the civil rights movement—a growing number of African-Americans became involved in lesbian and gay politics. In the face of racism in the gay pride movement, the women's movement, and the lesbian movement, both black gay men and lesbian women—separately and in coalition—found the need to organize separately from whites and men.

Along with racism, black lesbian women also faced the sexism of black gay men and the homophobia of some black feminists, and they realized that they experienced all the major oppression (racism, classism, sexism and homophobia), which led to a further split in the development of the black lesbian female and black gay male communities. In fact, the oldest organization for African-American homosexuals is African-American Wimmin United for Societal Change, which began as Salsa Soul Sisters in 1975.

Most of the growth, therefore, that has taken place in the community of black gay men and lesbian women in the U.S. is a very recent, and organizationally complex, development. Nineteen seventy-eight marked the beginning of a new era of trust. It was during this year that black gays and lesbians joined forces separate from the larger lesbian and gay and black movements to form what was then called the National Coalition of Black Gays (In 1985, the name was changed to the National Coalition of Black *Lesbians and* Gays (NCBLG).) NCBG took advantage of the October 1979 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights to hold the first National Third World Lesbian and Gay Conference. In 1980, black gay men joined forces with white gay men to create the National Association of Black and White Men Together/Men of All Colors Together. Chapters of this organization currently exist in over 20 U.S. cities, and at least two foreign countries. Several organizations solely for African-American gay men have come and gone, with at least Gay Men of African Descent in New York City (1986), Adodi in Philadelphia (1986) and the Black Men's Xchange in California (1989), remaining.

The threat that AIDS has imposed upon all gay men and the entire African-American community has been, perhaps, the most important contributing factor to the recent growth in the sociopolitical movement of African-American gay men. Watching their friends die and knowing that several of them would die soon, combined with the nationwide hysteria that aroused more homophobic discrimination and violence, led many gay men and lesbian women of all races to become politically involved. Sociopolitical organizations provided a forum for support and an opportunity to plan ways to get funding for AIDS research and services and medication for those who could not afford them.

The 1980s has seen a strong effort on the parts of African-American gay men, both individually and collectively, to "come out of the closet" in a society where, as Joseph Beam—a hero and pioneer of the community of black gay men—puts it, "Visibility is survival." It was during the mid-to-late 1980s that black gay men developed a level of group-consciousness that led them to form organizations solely for themselves, to work more with black lesbian women and with white gay men, and to express in writing, photography, theater, and film the experience of the Community of African-American gay men in the United States.

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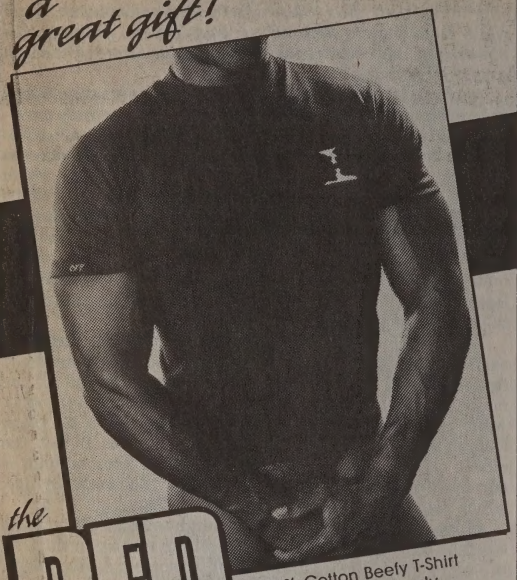

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Leadership Forum Gears Up for Fourth Conference

By Mark Haile, BLK Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES—Audre Lorde will be coming to Los Angeles to deliver the keynote address at the 1991 National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference on Feb. 9 through 18.

Lorde, the prolific essayist, poet, feminist, announced conference co-chairs Michelle Walker and Mitchel El-Mahdy, will be the highlight of the ten days of meetings, cultural events and social affairs. By far the most ambitious conference yet in terms of its inclusivity of participants and presentations, the 1991 conference will be held at the Downtown Hyatt Hotel.

A significant body of participants will be African-Americans with AIDS and HIV infection. The organizers are ensuring that every black person with AIDS can come to the conference who wishes to, with conference co-chair Walker stating, "We make every effort to get them here," noting scholarships are available, as is travel assistance and a hospitality suite that will be provided on site for PWAs.

The annual AIDS luncheon will once again honor the men and women on the frontlines of the battle against AIDS in the black community. Included among the honorees and presenters at past conferences are Patti LaBelle, Natalie Cole, Whoopi Goldberg and California State Assemblymember Maxine Waters. The luncheon has generated thousands of dollars for AIDS organizations across the country since its inception.

There will be four principal awards announced over the course of the conference: The James Baldwin Arts and Letters Awards for the outstanding cultural contribution to the African-American lesbian and gay community, the Bayard Rustin Award honoring political activism, the Harriet Tubman Award to the organization of the year and the Frederick Garnett Award in honor of the gay African-American who devoted the last years of his life to AIDS activism before succumbing to the disease himself in 1987.

Audre Lorde was herself recipient of the first James Baldwin Award in 1988. The 57-year-old grandmother activist was honored in October with a conference in Boston based on her literary works.

As the dates get nearer, the shape of the National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference becomes monumental, both in its size and the scope of activities to be included.

Over 1000 lesbians and gay men of African Descent are expected in Los Angeles to participate in the conference, attending over 150 workshops, three full days of cultural programming, a series of stunning social bashes and honoring the black lesbian and gay movement's pioneers as the next wave of activists learn their craft.

It will be the west coast's largest ever gathering of lesbians and gay men of color. It will be one of the largest conferences nationwide, period.

The conference will be preceeded by the second annual Black Gay and Lesbian Cultural Arts Festival, beginning Feb. 9. Co-sponsored by the African-American Gay and Lesbian Cultural Alliance, the festival will have three days of black lesbian and gay theater, film, video, dance, poetry, performance art and visual art. Among those contributing works will be author/performer Essex Hemphill, with other cast members of Marlon Riggs's acclaimed video, *Tongues Untied.*

Registration will open Tuesday, Feb. 12 with orientation tours for L.A. visitors and with visits scheduled for popular attractions.

Wednesday, Feb. 13, the first of several days devoted to tracks of coordinated sessions will begin with the Spirituality Institute and the Leadership Development Institute.

On Thursday, Feb. 14, the fourth annual AIDS Institute will run on throughout the day. That evening, a memorial service will be accompanied by a presentation of the AIDS Quilt. Participants in the conference are encouraged to bring panels to be included in the quilt, which will then join the Names Project [National AIDS Quilt] in San Francisco.

Friday, Feb. 15, the women's roundtable discussion will provide a full day of dialogue, a forum for all black lesbian voices to provide for the exchange of ideas. The institute and attendant luncheon will be the first and largest of many women-specific events on the agenda for the weekend.

The conference workshops have achieved an all-time high in diversity, sheer number and inclusivity.

Covered will be the standard skills-building musts, such as obtaining non-profit status, fundraising and developing professionalism. As well, many more presentations will take place, focusing on self-esteem issues, creativity, relationships, culture and history, and a focus on often overlooked segments within the community, such as lesbians and gay men of African descent from outside the United States or persons of mixed heritage.

Mobilizing a community against racism, sexism and homophobia, learning the secrets of organizational structuring, confronting everything from internalized low self-esteem to the U.S. Senate may seem like a tall order for a single conference. The successive expansion of the Leadership Forum with each conference has provided the means for the community's continued development, sophistication and clout.

The program committee has stressed each year that this is a participatory conference. The planning is a hands-on process, with the subject matter to be covered, the basic skills needed, the workshop presenters and speakers all being chosen by the community-at-large. Thus, the final shape of the conference reflects the width and breath of the experiences, knowledge, resources and vision within the black lesbian and gay community.

Over the ten days of institutes, panels, plenaries and seminars, professionals will be learning from each other, novices will be given the basics and in the case of African-Americans living with HIV, black lesbians and gay men in recovery, lesbians and gay men of multicultural heritages and so many other groups, men and women will be sharing their personal experiences with each other—the ground level link at building a cohesive community.

"It's a place where we can all gather together," said Walker. " It's not very often we're able to share our information from our perspective and to have people coming from all over the world."

The conference social highpoint will be the Saturday, Feb. 16 dinner-dance, themed, "Children in Paradise," an evening

Continued on page 28

SKIP AND BEAR THREW THE PARTY, BUT Y'ALL WERE THE PARTY, SO HERE'S A SPECIAL THANKS TO THOSE WHO CAME, WHO HELPED, AND WHO MADE IT MELLOW:

To Tom and Homer, for their apartment, the food trays, and for being great neighbors.

•

To Adamo "Dreads" DiGregorio for all his work, and for putting up with Skip and José.

•

To José and Louis, who helped put the place together, and clean it up.

•

To Tony Powell. Baby, those tapes weren't just live, they exploded!

•

To Sheldon, a conscientious, mellow security guard.

•

To Gerald Bowie, for finally being there.

•

To Vincent and Tony, for not being there.

•

To Russell, Colville, and Cappy, for making sure that those who were too full didn't break their legs going into the backyard.

•

To Ken, as usual, a great, uncomplaining bartender, and cute, too!

•

To J.T. for picking up Eugene Rogers, who helped put the place in order and then tried to replace Gary with every boy at the party.

•

And to all of you from everywhere—they tell me Frankfurt, D.C., and Uganda was there—who brought things, who brought yourselves, who brought friends, and who brought a fine, wide smile to 1991. Let's three-peat next year!

Carl Bean Starts Fast to Keep AIDS Program Open

LOS ANGELES—Rev. Carl Bean began a fast on Jan. 8 to demonstrate the severity of the need for more financial resources to keep the Minority AIDS Project, which he founded, opened for business.

The financial crisis at the agency, an outgrowth of the Unity Fellowship Church, has reached a point where the doors could be shut within 30 days if the community at large cannot come up with about $400,000. Emergency funds from the Ryan White CARE bill are not being allocated to MAP despite its position as the largest agency providing services to people of color in Southern California. Flanked by board members and clients of MAP, Rev. Bean was candid about the immediacy of the crisis and somewhat dismayed that funds from individuals and corporations that do come into AIDS agencies only get as far as the 'safe' high profile organizations. Many of these same organizations downplay the gayness of AIDS, and not coincidentally tend to be largely white in both staff and clients.

It is because of that type of inequity in service delivery that the Minority AIDS Project was founded in 1985, and still finds that the need for it's existence confirmed daily. MAP presently serves between 500-700 clients. For blacks and other people of color with AIDS, the diagnosis comes so much later than for whites, that the immediacy of their need is far greater. Rev. Bean's mission has been to have an agency for all the PWAs forgotten by other agencies; his personal credo has been to turn no one away, no matter what.

The National Commission on AIDS heard testimony recently that blacks have a long, well-founded history of mistrust of the medical establishment. Discrimination and traditionally inadequate medical care means that most of the clients who arrive at MAP are far more destitute and in much worse shape physically than their white counterparts, with a life expectancy half that of white PWAs.

Rev. Bean expressed his fears as to what could happen to those men, women and children left homeless and hopeless by HIV infection, should MAP not be there to provide the $5,000 or so each month it spends in direct cash grants to keep them off the streets and fed.

There is no official allowance for cash grants to provide direct assistance to PWAs in the monies from Washington and Sacramento, thus much of this money must come from the individual private donors who currently provide only 15 percent of MAP's operating budget. Other agencies engaged in similar programs rely extensively on donations. MAP at present doesn't have sufficient staff or volunteers, however, to direct such massive fundraising campaigns. This is compounded by the problem that the community MAP serves is far less able to give at a level than that the gay community is capable of. The assistance MAP needs—not just to meet the present emergency, but to ensure ongoing support for the project—must come from other sources in addition to the black community, straight and gay alike.

"There needs to be a community response to this crisis," stated Rev. Bean. "There needs to be a response to this disease that might help our people out." Bean vowed to stay on the fast, "Hopefully only for a night, but as long as it takes." Just an hour after the press conference announcing the fast, a check arrived from an unidentified woman for $5,000, a welcome start in the right direction. Bean made a special appeal to figures in the entertainment industry to lend their support, noting how AIDS is but the newest in a long line of crises for African-Americans, one that leaves the vast majority of the community less able to support its institutions.

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Black Gay Man to Sit on City Gay, Lesbian Panel

SEATTLE—Milton Farquhar is one of the newest members of the Seattle Commission for Lesbians and Gays. Prior to moving to Seattle in 1987, Farquhar had lived in Los Angeles and New York, as well as five years in Berlin.

Farquhar, who likes to describe himself as a "Taoist eco-feminist queer," says he is excited about the energy in Queer Nation, whose meetings he attends. He is also up front about his support of feminism.

As a Commission member, Farquhar says he hopes to help connect the African-American lesbian community more solidly in the gay and lesbian community as a whole. The new commissioner has a background in fundraising and public relations for community-based AIDS organizations.

D.C. Organization Gets New Name, New Officers

WASHINGTON—What used to be known as the D.C. Coalition of Black Gay Men and Women has voted to change its name to the D.C. Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gay Men. The change was one of several made formal last month at the group's annual election meeting. The Coalition also voted to replace the post of president with female and male co-chairs.

Elected to head the group for the coming year were Louise Gant and Kevin Taylor, co-chairs; Courtney Williams, secretary and Darren Vuckner, treasurer.

Ald. Robert Shaw Joins in 43-0 Hate Crimes Vote

CHICAGO—To the surprise of gay campaigners, the Chicago Hate Crimes Ordinance passed the City Council Dec. 19 by a vote of 43-0. Even the council's most vocal homophobe, black Alderman Robert Shaw, was moved by testimony of anti-gay violence perpetrated by Chicago police officers, and cast a vote to increase penalties for such crimes.

Chicago is believed to be the first city or state to pass a gay-inclusive hate-crimes law by a unanimous vote. The measure increases penalties for most all hate-motivated crimes based on sexual orientation and a long list of other factors.

First-time violators will face up to an extra $1,000 fine and an extra year in prison. Activists will now turn their attention to a gay-rights law for Cook County and "some sort of domestic-partnership legislation" in Chicago.

Harvey to Quit Whitman

WASHINGTON—Jim Harvey, senior deputy administrator at the Whitman-Walker Clinic in the District, will step down at the end of January. He will be leaving the agency, where he has worked for almost four years, to develop an African-American AIDS service center.

Harvey, who ran for the D.C. City Council unsuccessfully last fall, didn't rule out the possibility of running for office in the future, saying, "I intend to stick around and do my part to help give this town the fair shake it deserves."

CDC November Statistics on AIDS Cases in U.S.

	White (not Latino)		Black (not Latino)		Latino		Asian/Pacific Islander		American Indian/ Alaskan Native		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
MALE												
Gay and bisexual contact	65,634	80	15,611	44	9,776	46	717	81	120	63	92,049	66
Straight IV drug use	5,203	6	12,423	35	8,258	39	26	3	21	11	25,995	19
Gay and bisexual contact, and IV drug use	5,990	7	2,805	8	1,496	7	20	2	29	15	10,356	7
Hemophilia and coagulation disorder	1,107	1	87	0	104	0	16	2	8	4	1,327	1
Straight contact	550	1	2,392	7	305	1	7	1	2	1	3,260	2
Receipt of blood transfusion, blood components or tissue	1,640	2	331	1	196	1	45	5	1	1	2,222	2
Other and undetermined	1,746	2	1,566	4	1,038	5	49	6	10	5	4,449	3
Male subtotal	81,870	100	35,215	100	21,173	100	880	100	191	100	139,658	100
FEMALE												
IV drug use	1,612	40	4,474	57	1,570	51	14	18	16	52	7,699	51
Hemophilia and coagulation disorder	26	1	5	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	33	0
Straight contact	1,189	30	2,546	32	1,157	37	28	35	8	26	4,944	33
Receipt of blood transfusion, blood components or tissue	910	23	284	4	177	6	26	33	3	10	1,402	9
Other and undetermined	277	7	570	7	190	6	11	14	4	13	1,055	7
Female subtotal	4,014	100	7,879	100	3,096	100	79	100	31	100	15,133	100
Total	85,884		43,094		24,269		959		222		154,791	

Source: "Adult/Adolescent AIDS Cases by Sex, Exposure Category and Race/Ethnicity Reported through November 1990, United States," U.S. Centers for Disease Control. HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, December 1990.

Neglect Charged as Threat to Black Women Rises

By Mark Haile, BLK Staff Writer

WASHINGTON—AIDS is the number one killer of black women between the ages of 25 and 44. This was not a dramatic revelation by researchers at the first conference sponsored by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) on women and HIV held in Washington, D.C. Dec. 13 and 14. Rather, it was the message AIDS activists and health care workers gave to the government officials who have paid scant attention to HIV in women.

While filled with emotional moments as women with AIDS and HIV infection discussed their feelings and told of their experiences, the only information to come out of the conference was a history of what has not been done and what had been done wrong, with apologies by NIAID for past mistakes and promises by government agencies to do better in the future.

What was the most useful portion of the weekend by the health workers' perspective was an all too rare opportunity to share knowledge on treatment of women suffering from various HIV induced infections. To date, the government has not sponsored any studies on HIV in women; only 275 women nationwide participate in any HIV trials. As a result, Medicaid and other disability benefits are denied because opportunistic infections specific to women are not included among the unrealisticly short list of symptoms that officially define when a person has AIDS or ARC.

At the 6th International Conference on AIDS last June in San Francisco, the government was hit by critics for not expanding their definition of AIDS criteria in light of nearly a decade of constantly evolving information. The criteria was established by studying gay men who made up the overwhelming majority of the first AIDS cases in the United States. Women now account for 12 percent of the AIDS cases in the U.S., compared with 50 percent in many African countries.

Research by health workers show a number of symptoms including vaginal thrust; cervical cancer; yeast infections in the vagina, mouth and esophagus; pelvic inflammatory disease; bacterial pneumonia; wasting syndrome and dysplasia.

Women's health issues are so routinely ignored or understudied, that women suffer doubly from the sexism and homophobia combined when it comes to issues surrounding HIV. The government readily acknowledged that most of the women with HIV are minorities, live in the inner city and do not have access to proper health care.

Anthony Fauci, Director of NIAID and a constant target of criticism by AIDS activists, apologized for the lack of attention his agency has paid to the health of women affected by HIV, holding an unscheduled meeting to privately listen to the women with HIV during the conference. Fauci along with Dan Hoth, director of NIAID's AIDS division, declined invitations to visit clinics in the Bronx that were underfunded and under staffed because they are providing services to women with HIV that the government officially claims don't exist. The Centers for Disease Control estimates only a third of the women with HIV are meeting the official criteria of what constitutes AIDS.

Participants in the conference, most of whom are service providers on the frontlines, also spoke out sharply against the slowness of the government to react to the alarming jump 29 percent in the last year in the rising number of women with AIDS.

While women to women transmission of the virus during sex is still debated, and an extremely rare occurance at best, lesbians are not so isolated from the rest of the world as to escape infection through other means. Prevention efforts aimed at women lags behind that aimed at men in a manner similar to that surrounding the availability of treatment.

Speaking as to how direct a threat AIDS represents to lesbians, Mary Adair, chair of AIDS Healthcare Foundation of Los Angeles, said, "Speaking as a woman, AIDS is a woman's issue. It always has been. Speaking as a lesbian, AIDS is an issue of homophobia and always has been. Speaking as a human being, AIDS is an issue of sexism , racism and classism and always has been." Adair noted that AIDS will become one of the five leading causes of death in women between the ages of 15 and 44 in 1991.

The entire conference audience of 2,000 stood in support as women with HIV read a statement at the closing plenary that demanded a change in the CDC definition of AIDS, making disability benefits available for women with HIV, and to include women in clinical drug trials.

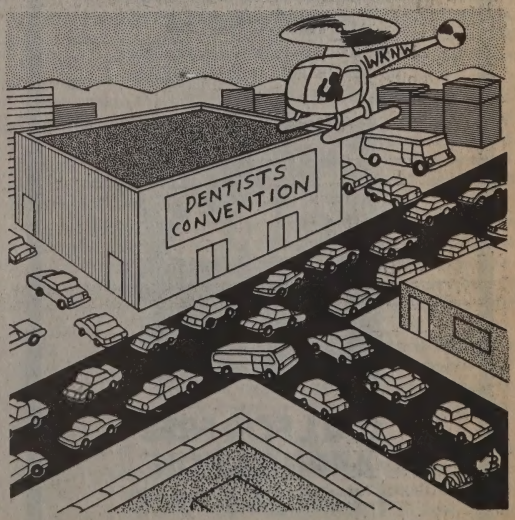
"Change the definition now" was the battle cry of the weekend, from banners unfurled during speeches to heated exchanges between activists and officials.

As the conference itself was the end result of increased pressure on the federal government to respond appropriately, so too do activists hope it is the beginning of an effective, inclusive era on the part of the agencies who hold the power of life and death as readily in their bureaucratic decisions as in their research laboratories.

Black Gay Video Gets $

SAN FRANCISCO—Catherine Saalfield has been awarded a $2,000 grant by Frameline to help complete *Among Good Christian Peoples,* an experimental narrative video based on Jacqueline Woodson's personal essay, "Growing Up Black and Gay Among Good Christian Peoples."

Frameline, a non-profit lesbian and gay media arts organization, awarded a total of $5,000 in cash grants to filmmakers and video producers for completion of lesbian and gay productions.



"...and there's a dental jam on First and Main."

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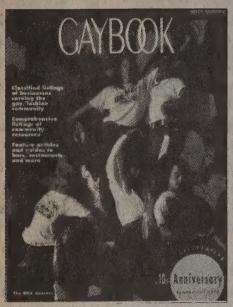

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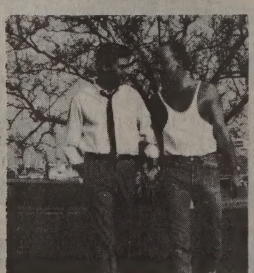

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Liberian Civil War Dooms African Gay Organization

MONROVIA, Liberia—Club Lambda, the only gay group in the West African nation of Liberia, has disbanded for the duration of the country's ongoing bloody civil war.

Prior to the time that rebel forces reached Monrovia, the capital, the group's membership had grown to 75 and plans were afoot to start a second chapter in a regional capital. Now, most of the 75 members have taken refuge in neighboring Freetown, Sierra Leone or Abidjan, Ivory Coast. The remainder are hiding with relatives in the bush.

A few of the group members who have money want to emigrate to the United States, but they must await a determination by the State Department of who is and isn't a Liberian refugee.

Club Lambda was launched in April, 1988, by U.S. Peace Corps volunteer, Tom Myers. Four people showed up for the first meeting.

"Liberian gay men and lesbians suffer ferocious oppression [as a result of] socially ingrained machismo in heterosexual men and a Christian fundamentalism propagated by American missionaries," Myers says. "The oppression includes ostracism by family, friends and associates; harassment from security police and militia; imprisonment merely for being homosexual; and blackmail."

The group's meetings were regularly raided by soldiers yelling the word "punk" which means "fag." "There's not too many Peace Corps volunteers who had to look down the barrels of M-16s," Myers said.

At the time of its shutdown, Club Lambda was still "building from the inside," according to Myers. "Pride, self-esteem, confidence, the ability to stand up and say, 'I'm not bad, I'm not evil, I'm not a horrible person like they tell me I am."

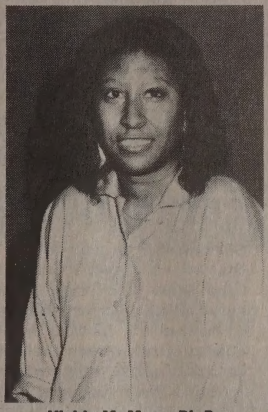
Liberia was founded by the U.S. National Colonization Society in 1822 as a home for freed American slaves. Today, most Liberians still lead tribal life in the rain forests, many working in the production of iron ore and natural rubber.

Club Lambda has no current address.

Karina stifles the urge to give the obvious answer.

Black C.A.R.E. Project Enters New Research Phase

LOS ANGELES—The Black Community AIDS Research and Education Project (Black C.A.R.E.) which has been gathering data from black gay and bisexual men throughout the United States has launched a new phase targeted specifically at black men in Los Angeles at risk of HIV infection.



Vickie M. Mays, Ph.D.

As part of the new effort, black men who may have not filled out the original self-administered questionnaire because of their reading skills or access to the survey will be interviewed. This new phase of Black C.A.R.E.'s efforts including counseling, HIV antibody testing and referral to early intervention programs.

Of particular interest to Vickie M. Mays, Ph.D., the director of the original project as well as its new extension, are those black gay and bisexual men whose sexual practices and self-identification have made them generally unavailable to traditional survey methods. Mays calls these the men "most don't have time for, find 'unreachable' or who have been forgotten."

Included in this group are black men who have had sex with other men while in prison, in the military or for money or drugs, male transsexuals, transvestites or crossdressers, and heterosexual men who through personal ads, baths or escort services have sex with other men. Special efforts to reach these men were used in the self-administered questionnaires and now in the Los Angeles interview study.

Mays says that "since 36 percent of all newly reported AIDS cases in the United States occur in the black population it is clear that education and prevention programs have not been successful enough to reach all groups of black gay and bisexual men."

Black C.A.R.E. was originally formed in 1987 to conduct a national study of AIDS knowledge, services and support of black men who have sex with other men. In 1987, in conjunction with a national advisory board, Black C.A.R.E. set out to reach over 1,000 black gay and bisexual men in order to make sure their voices would be heard in the AIDS epidemic.

The national study known to many by its bright blue color has over 800 completed questionnaires from black gay and bisexual men from more than 40 states throughout the U.S. Mays still hopes to reach the project's goal of 1,000 by urging those who still have the survey to complete and return them.

In Black C.A.R.E's new phase, much like with the national survey, "the community is responding fairly well," says Dr. Mays. In the new phase, called the Black Men's Health Project, there is an interview and pre- and post-test HIV antibody testing. Follow-up referral is available through a list of community physicians, UCLA clinical trials and other health care professionals in Los Angeles. Not only is testing free, but in many cases the researchers will pay participants for their time and effort. The Black Men's Health Project will repeat all of the test, free of charge, one year later to determine how a person's health is progressing in fighting exposure to HIV disease. The project's goal is to reach 200 black men. This is the only study designed specifically to understand the immunology and virology of HIV disease in black men.

"We know so little about how this disease may be different in our community," says Dr. Mays. "The only thing that we know is we die faster and get less services. Is it because we have limited access to services or maybe there are other reasons. If we don't look, we will never know."

Mays sees this project as offering black men, especially gay and bisexual men, information about HIV disease, and how to cope with it. Another goal is to provide the medical community with much needed information that can assist in drug development that takes into account ways that black men may differ.

The Black Men's Health Project is currently soliciting volunteers to help do outreach in all parts of Los Angeles County in such areas as skidrow, among the homeless and other places where black men are unlikely to receive messages about AIDS. Volunteers can commit as little as three hours a month to helping to spread the word about the study and provide HIV-related information to black men in the Los Angeles community.

Black C.A.R.E. is eager to reach its goal of 1,000 responses. Those who have not yet received a copy of its national self-administered questionnaire can request one; those who already have, are urged to complete and return it. The project is particularly interested in hearing from black gay and bisexual men Montana, Wyoming, New Mexico, North and South Dakota, Nebraska, West Virginia and the New England states where response has been low.

Black C.A.R.E. can be reached at 405 Hilgard Ave., 1283 Franz, Los Angeles, Calif. 90024-1563, 213-825-9858.

White Activists Confront Arsenio Hall on TV Show

LOS ANGELES—In an action somewhat reminiscent of the "zaps" of the early days of the gay pride movement, 20 white gay activists turned out for a visit to the *Arsenio Hall Show* at the Paramount Studios on Dec. 14.

The running dialogue between members of the Los Angeles chapter of Queer Nation and the talk show host was cut on some stations, so that the three to four million late night viewers saw anywhere from four to ten minutes of the shouting match that ensued.

One by one the activists stood up and challenged homophobic remarks made by Hall. As each activist spoke out, they were lead out of the studio in turn by a security guard. "Arsenio Hall has a long standing history of using homophobic stereotypes in his humor and sketches," said Scott Rabbie, one the activists involved in the action.

In addition to confronting Hall on his homophobic remarks, the activists, some of whom wore their Queer Nation T-Shirts for the cameras, challenged Hall to have more openly gay guests on his show. Hall became visibly angry during the disruption, telling the activists at one point, "Get your own show!"

Hall shouted, "There are a lot of gay guests on this show, but it ain't none of your damn business that they are gay." When Hall apologized for the incident to his audience, he later refered to the protesters as "white trash," calling them "stupid" and "rude."

After all of the vocal Queer Nation activists had been peacefully escorted out of the studio, a still flustered and angry Hall met his first guest, Paul Hogan of *Crocodile Dundee*, and greeted him with a kiss. Hogan then did his best to help calm Arsenio down, by telling him to "lighten up."

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Among the topics covered are: medical, psychological and social advantages and disadvantages of testing, dealing with your test results, maintaining safer sex, dealing with sexual partners/lovers, family and more.

The workshop is open to all, male and female, gay and non-gay.

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Meeting on Racism Held

SAN DIEGO—The Harvey Milk Club of San Diego presented a community forum on racism in the lesbian and gay community, with various organizations serving the needs of people of color in the region on hand.

The forum, held at the Center for Social Services on Dec. 18, included Lesbians and Gays of African Descent United, Gay and Lesbian Asian Pacific Islander Social Support (GLASS), BWMT/San Diego and Orgullo, a Latino lesbian and gay organization. The forum, in its third year, was organized by Harvey Milk Club vice-president, Jim Cua, a founder of GLASS, and the first male to serve in a statewide capacity with the National Organization of Women.

Forum Confab Opens

Continued from page 21

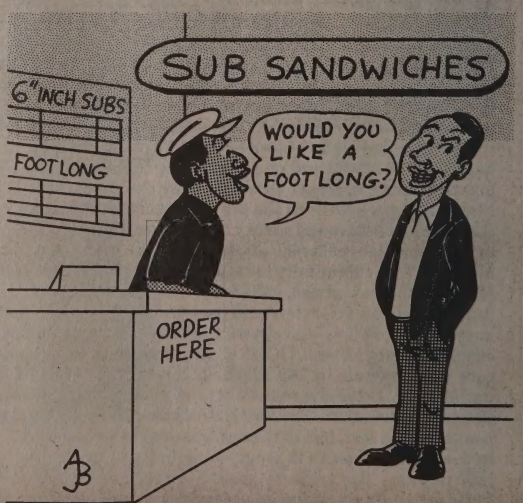
that will showcase African-American lesbian and gay men at their finest. The formal dinner will, as always, be the social event of the year for the community.

Behind the fanfare and celebration will be a cadre of dozens of volunteers that will keep the conference flowing smoothly and most importantly, accessible to all who want to be there. The organizers of the conference must recruit sufficient medical personnel to be on call at all hours for participants with compromised immune systems. Interpreters are needed for the hearing impaired and scores of volunteers who can be temporary "buddies" for the weekend will all help those with limited mobility access the conference fully.

The hotel itself is fully wheelchair accessible and sensitized to the needs of the differently abled.

The organizers will have a variety of accommodations available in the central city area surrounding the Hyatt, located near most of the city's bus lines and the terminus of the new Blue Line light rail system.

More students have arrived each year, providing a rare opportunity for different generations of activists to share with each other. They and many others will rely on the resources of the housing committee to provide for those who otherwise will not be staying at the Hyatt Hotel.



Albert stifles the urge to give the obvious answer.

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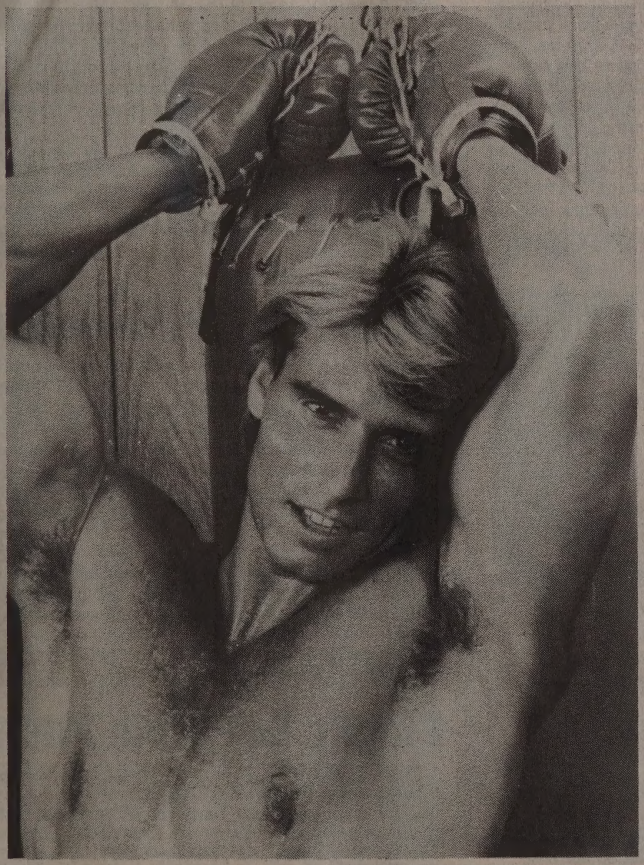

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Black Lesbian, Gay Cultural Fest Set for February

By Mark Haile, BLK Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES—The African-American Gay and Lesbian Cultural Alliance is putting finishing touches on its annual African-American Gay and Lesbian Cultural Festival encompassing four days and nights of dance, performance art, theater and film.

From the theater pieces opening the festival on Sat., Feb. 9 through the film screenings on Tues., Feb. 12, black lesbian and gay artists will be touching on every aspect of their lives and experiences in every conceivable medium.

The theater, dance and poetry performances, as well as the history presentation and awards ceremony, to the panel discussions and gala parties will all take place at the Crossroads Arts Academy, 4310 Degnan Blvd. in Los Angeles.

Television producer Lamond Ayers is the festival's artistic director. He is also a member of the board of directors of Gentlemen Concerned.

Saturday afternoon opens with a dance performance of *Song for My Brothers* followed by a reprise performance of *Tri-Sections,* written and performed by Ayofemi Folayan with music composed and performed by Debbie Lawrence. *Tri-Sections,* made possible in part by a grant from the Department of Cultural Affairs of the City of Los Angeles, is "a dramatic tapestry," where Folayan celebrates her experiences as a lesbian, as a woman who is physically challenged, as a black woman, as a woman who must fight for her right to self-esteem and acceptance from her family.

Also on Saturday afternoon, the art exhibit will open, featuring the work of artists from across the country. Video screenings will begin on Monday and Tuesday. Among the films showcasing the history and presence of black lesbian and gay life are *International Sweethearts of Rhythm, Tiny and Ruby: Hell Divin' Women, Women in Love, Affirmations* and *Tongues Untied.*

Saturday evening's performances begin with the world premiere of *Children of the Night,* a "choreopoem" concepted and staged by Stephen Semien. A modern jazz-dance set to verbal recitation of poetry with a cappella voices, *Children of the Night* is dedicated to Semien's brother, godfather and friends lost to AIDS.

Semien began his dancing career in the Joel Noble Dance Company, studying with the Dance Theater of Harlem and the Alvin Ailey School of American Dance among many others. He has performed in videos with Paula Abdul, Steve Winwood and Jody Watley and was nominated for a Hollywood NAACP theater award for the musical *De Obeah Mon.*

Following *Children* is the world premiere of *Saxophone Me, Baby* by Angela Counts, a bluesy story of the isolation and alienation of a black lesbian as she struggles through coming out in her community. Auditions are being held for the seven character performance piece.

Adele Renault, Los Angeles-based poet will perform her work, hailed by critics as "one of the strongest new voices in the Los Angeles poetry scene. Her textural approach toward life is direct, comical and full of wisdom and severe states of pleasure."

Following the Saturday evening performance will be a gala opening night party with yet more performances.

AAGLCA is offering a special $45 series ticket which will allow admission to all of the performances, screenings and panel discussions of black gay and lesbian artists. The series pass will be the surest way to see the festival as some individual events may sell out prior to the day of the performance. Pass discounts will be available to registered participants of the National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference and to AAGLCA members.

Sunday afternoon, AAGLCA will present a black history and awards program, honoring those persons past and present who "made a significant contribution to the well-being of the African-American gay and lesbian community." Last year's honorees included Stanley Bennett Clay and Sylvia Bennett (no relation). Charles Stewart will deliver the afternoon's keynote address.

"The politically correct New Yorkers have decided that being lesbian or gay is sexist. They are requiring everyone to be bisexual."

Woman, 19, Poses as Man

ANAHEIM, Calif—A red-faced Orange County Sheriff's Department is on the lookout for 19-year-old Teresa Jones, who is facing charges of suspicion of burglary. Jones was released from custody when the sheriffs, to their surprise, discovered that the suspect they had arrested—who gave his name as Louis Jones—was actually a female.

"Even the individual who was arrested with her was surprised," said Sheriff's spokesman Capt. Bon Eason.

Jones had been arrested previously for impersonation of men. When her gender was discovered after the burglary arrests, Jones told Sheriff's deputies that Louis was her twin brother. To use the name of another person when arrested would have been a felony charge, but officers could not verify that Jones did or did not have a brother.

Charges have been refiled for the suspicion of burglary under Jones's actual name and gender.

Blacks Get Stein Posts

WASHINGTON—Three men of color have been retained or newly elected as officers of the Gertrude Stein Democratic Club for the coming year. Lorenzo Williams was elected vice president for administration and Alexander Robinson was elected vice president for governmental and political affairs. Both are members of the D.C. Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gay Men. Mauro Montoya, a Latino, was re-elected president. Other officers elected were Mark Sullivan treasurer and Karen Armagost secretary.

BLK VEIL

Obituaries are published free of charge. They are accepted from funeral directors, families, lovers, friends and AIDS service organizations. Include your name, address and phone number for our records. We prefer to write the notice ourselves from the details you provide. If known, include the deceased's principal city of residence, correct legal name, any nicknames or pseudonyms by which they were known in the community, dates of birth and death as well as locations of birth and death. In addition, include all relevant biographical and professional data in both early and later life. Don't assume any detail or accomplishment is too small to include, Although, we edit notices to not more than seven lines, it is better to have too much information than too little. We can provide information gathering forms on request. Memorial display advertising is accepted at prevailing advertising rates.

MILTON BONDS, 30, a teacher and founder of the Washington Black Literary Society, died of respiratory failure Nov. 22 according to the *Washington Blade.* The Arkansas native held a bachelor's from Southern Illinois University and an master's from the University of the District of Columbia. Most recently he taught at Glen Ridge Elementary. Bonds worked with the Intergroup Minority Project AIDS Consortium and Trust and as a volunteer for the Whitman-Walker Outreach Program.

BRIAN MATTHEW DAY, born May 6, 1960 died Nov. 25 in his native Seattle from complications related to AIDS. After earning a degree from New York's Fashion Institute, he returned west to open a clothing store. He eventually moved to Puerto Rico, but returned six months later with his first opportunistic infection. Day worked with the ACT-UP/Seattle, the Northwest AIDS Foundation, the Governor's Task Force on AIDS and the Chicken Soup Brigade. He is survived by two sisters and other relatives.

JEFFREY THOMAS FRANKLIN died Dec. 28, at the age of 23, of complications related to AIDS. Franklin was a frequent speaker on AIDS and safer sex at churches, schools, colleges and a wide range of organizations in the Washington area. He is survived by his companion, Galan Meyer of Washington; and his mother, Mary Jackson; stepfather, Reginald Jackson; two sisters, Iris and Shawna; and brother, Reginald Dean, Jr., all of Springfield, Va.

LYNDON ELTON GREEN died Dec. 13 in Washington of complications related to AIDS according to the *Washington Blade.* He was 25. The Meckelburg County, Va. native studied physical education at North Carolina Central University and Hampton University. He came to Washington in the mid-1980s and worked for Mrs. Field's Cookies until June 1989. He began work as a Riggs Bank teller this past February. He is survived by companion Michael Boerner, his parents, four sisters and three brothers.

JAMES HARP died from complications related to AIDS on Dec. 27, at St. Vincent's Medical Center in Los Angeles. Born in Arkansas June 13, 1939, Harp was a resident of Los Angeles for 35 years. He was employed in the Smokehouse restaurant for over 30 years, first in Encino, then Burbank as a waiter. Services were held Jan. 5 at the First A.M.E. Church where he was a member and sang in the choir. He is survived by several sisters and brothers and close friends.

HENRY DARNELL LEWIS, a federal attorney and playwright, died Nov. 22 at age 34 of complications related to AIDS according to the *Washington Blade.* Lewis graduated from Morgan State and earned a law degree from Washington and Lee University before joining the Office of Special Counsel in Washington. Two of his plays were produced in the 1987 and 1989 Washington Theater Festival. His book, *Mean Spell,* won a D.C. Commission on Arts award. Lewis is survived by his companion, Larry McPherson.

JOSEPH JAMES STERLING, JR. died Oct. 30, the day after his 46th birthday according to *Update.* A Los Angeles native, Sterling attended Los Angeles City College for two years studying business management. From 1980 to 1985 he worked for Payco Coast Retail Merchants and Credit moving to Select Television in Marina Del Rey. Most recently he had been with Catalina Sportswear and Apple One Temporary Agency. He is survived by lover Nathaniel Foster, sisters Marilyn and Lula, and brothers S.T. and Larry.

EMORY WARBER STEWART III died Dec. 7 from complications associated with AIDS according to the *Washington Blade.* He was 31. A native of Manassas, Va., Stewart studied at Northern Virginia Community College in Manassas. In 1987, he began work at Pier 1 Imports and was later promoted to manager. He was also a member of First Baptist Church in Manassas. He leaves his life companion, Ron Lorentzen; his parents, Virgie and Emory C. Stewart; two brothers, Richard Stewart; and Cecil Terrell.

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Of course, people with AIDS need more than just companionship.

They need to understand the disease. That's why we offer guidance on living with AIDS. Updates on insurance issues. Advice on faith and spiritual matters. And counseling on chemical dependencies and other addictive behaviors that often complicate an AIDS diagnosis.

I've always said,

"If I ever got AIDS, I don't know what I'd do."

I was right.

Now as if the mental and physical drain of AIDS isn't enough, there's also the financial drain. So we provide essentials like food, clothing, and dental services to those in critical need.

Of course, the fight against AIDS isn't only between the disease and those who have it.

It's everyone's problem.

That's why we promote public awareness. Try to educate those who feel they don't need it. And demand that the Government of the United States approach AIDS just as it does every other major disease.

At AIDS Project Los Angeles, people discover courage and strength they didn't know they had. But before we can help, they have to do one simple thing. Call 213-962-1600 and talk to someone who cares.

Having AIDS can be a frightening experience, which is all the more reason it shouldn't be a lonely experience.

AIDS PROJECT LOS ANGELES

AIDS Project Los Angeles would like to gratefully thank the following contributors. Concept and design by Chiat/Day/Mojo, Jim Weinstein, Doug Schumacher and Rich Bess. Production by David Nickel, Patti Rawlins, Tony Jenson, Joe's Type Shop and Reproduction Quality Services. Media Planning by Media Ranch.

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BLK ARTS

THEATER

'Nubian' Shows Black Gay Bias

The Christopher Theatre Company of Washington, D.C. is presenting its first production, *Nubian Mythology,* by Carl Sumter at the Black Box Theatre in the Stables Art Center.

The hostility between the characters, black on black, black against white, brother against brother, is real to life, and thorough if not lengthy. Sumter is unerring in his indicting of society's homophobia, visible by the reactions of the largely straight, black audiences.

The center of the play is a family picnic in Dupont Circle. Among the family, friends and strangers in attendance are a black gay man, his white lover, his hostile brother, and a homeless man who doubles as the play's narrator.

DANCE MUSIC REVIEWS

Motown Moves into the 90s

By D.J. Marius

As a black music pioneer in the 60's, Motown rose to become a major power in the music industry. The label turned out hit after hit with a stunning consistency previously unheard of, especially as far as black music was concerned. Diana Ross and the Supremes, the Temptations, Smokey Robinson and the Miracles, "Little" Stevie Wonder, the Four Tops, Marvin Gaye—these were but a small portion of the legendary roster of African-American performers who made the world notice black music.

Having just celebrated its 30th anniversary, Motown is positioning itself to continue its power base as a cornerstone of black music. A look at a few recent Motown releases shows the label's foresight toward the 90s.

In the early 80s, the trio **Blaze** was an independent label band with a strong house sound. As teenagers in Newark, New Jersey, they would take the train into Manhattan to hang out at the legendary multi-racial, multi-sexual club, the Paradise Garage. This initial exposure to club music shaped the direction of the group, and has influenced a distinguished history of songwriting and production work. With an average age of 23, the group has remixed and produced records for Diana Ross, Kool and the Gang, Mica Paris, Dee C. Lee, Babyface and Isaac Hayes, among others.

Their Motown debut LP *25 Years Later* (MOTC-6301) brings them much closer to the R&B mainstream. The album evokes a strong feeling of social consciousness, and on side one, examines the history of black music. "I Wonder" strongly echoes the passion and feeling of Marvin Gaye's "What's Goin On." "All That I Should Know" bears a distinct resemblance to Stevie Wonder's earlier work. On side two the 90s arrive, packing the house beats and club music Blaze is known for. Says group leader Kevin Hedge, "Basically, the first side is what you would expect from Blaze; the second side is not. In America, there is a problem with House music as such because, apart from New York, people are not into it yet. I want to take not just House music, but also roots of it to all of America, along with our social conscience and message."

The point of a musical history lesson is well taken, although it may have been a stronger lesson had the group not tried so hard to sound just like Stevie and Marvin. Their talent is apparent, and shines through on the album. The group should be commended for taking musical activism to a new level.

Breaking out for the first time are R&B hip-hoppers **Basic Black**. A dance band in the very funky tradition, these guys sound a lot like Guy. The similarity may be coincidental, or it may be because of their producer Gene Griffin, who often works closely with Guy front-man Teddy Riley.

Although the group's debut release, *It's A Man's Thang* (MOTC-6307), has a synthesizer-laden, programmed sound, it is solid and quite danceable. The lead singer on most cuts sounds very much like Guy lead singer Aaron Hall, a friend of the group.

The band covers its bases, with some very nice ballads ("Special Kind of Fool," "Baby Can We Talk"), and some up-tempo, slammin' party tracks, the best of which is "Nothin' But a Party." One gets the feeling this album would be a good choice to put on at a house party. Riding the social consciousness tip, the cut "Stoopid" uses a new jazz swing beat and rappers X-Caliber and CoCo to deliver its anti-drug, anti-gang message.

Motown has hit paydirt with **The Boys**. Their debut album, "Messages from the Boys," came out of nowhere and rose to platinum status (more than 1 million units sold) on the strength of two No. 1 singles, "Dial My Heart" and "Lucky Charm." Their second, self-titled release *The Boys* (MOTC-6302), backs up the fact that they are being positioned to reign as the premier youth-oriented black group of the 90s.

It may just be bound to happen. The obvious comparison comes to mind: the Jackson Five. The Boys always gladly acknowledge being avid Jackson fans. To solidify this comparison, the Boys offer up a great cover of "Got To Be There," complete with harmonies and string arrangements like the old days. The Abdul-samad brothers—Bilal, Tajh, Hakeem and Khiry—structure the album as a tribute to their fans of all ages, and to their influences, musical and otherwise.

The two cuts that slam hardest, "Funny" and "SMPTE," are jammin' dance cuts in all their keyboard-thumping, drum-programming glory. "SMPTE" (pronounced "Simpty") refers to a time-coding system used in most modern recording studios, and the song states how the Boys always preferred instruments and studio equipment to regular toys. "Thanx for the Funk" brings Parliament-inspired hip-hop into the picture, and the Boys even get into some house music with the album's last track "The Bush."

Perhaps the best dance

album of the bunch comes from **Today**. Teddy Riley's producing genius surfaced on their first album *Today*. Touring with MC Hammer, Guy and Salt-N-Pepa gave the band much needed exposure and name recognition around the country. All four members being writers/producers/perfectionists in their own right, they went back into the studio. Working with new producers this time around, they crafted *Today: The New Formula*. "The last album was for a younger crowd," the group states, "but this LP is for people of all ages. We're really pleased with the results."

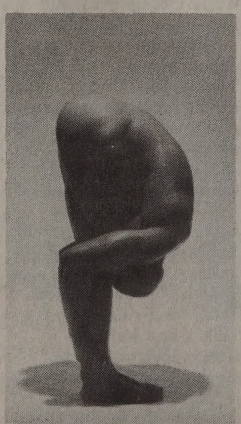
So are we. The slammer "I've Got the Feeling" (produced by Dr. Freeze—aka Bell, Biv, DeVoe) opens the first side of upbeat tracks. A remix of "Why You Get Funky On Me," one of the biggest hits of the summer from the *House Party* soundtrack, fits right into the party atmosphere that surrounds this first side. Lead singer Lee "Bubba" Drakeford has a fantastic voice, and not only uses it on uptempo jams, but stretches it out, with great results, on ballads "Trying to Get Over You" and "I Wanna Come Back Home," both co-written and produced by Nat Adderly, Jr. I listened to the cassette, but the CD has two bonus tracks, "No Need to Worry" and "My Happiness."

For those who didn't get a chance to catch Today on the Motortown Revue tour of Motown's brightest young performers (including Rich Nice, Milira, the Good Girls, the Boys and MC Trouble), this album is a must for your collection.

On the smoothed-out tip, check out the newest one from former Manhattans lead singer **Gerald Alston**. If you remember the R&B classics "Shining Star" and "Kiss and "Say Goodbye," you've heard this great soul balladeer. He continues that tradition nicely on his second Motown release, *Open Invitation* (MOTC-6298).

Primarily an album of love songs, Alston's smooth, confident approach appeals to all types of listeners. The ballads, however, make a stronger statement, and better express the beauty of Alston's voice. Gerald Albright's easy, flowing saxophone style shows up on four of the album's tracks, and is a perfect match with Alston's silky vocals. Comparisons with Nat King Cole, Sarah Vaughn and Sam Cooke are not too far off base, as this classy crooner merges traditional R&B styles with his modern soul sound.

Standouts on the album include the first single, "Slow Motion," which is accompanied by a sexy video starring Renee Tenison, *Playboy*'s first black Playmate of the Year. The single is getting a lot of radio airplay, and should give vital support to this album. Other prime cuts include "Getting Back Into Love" and "Still In Love."



One of the three shots in the 1991 AIDS Benefit Calendar that feature a black model. By mail (Box 34012, San Diego 92163) and at bookstores. Photo by Jeff Palmer.

MUSIC NEWS

Lawsuits, Drugs, Death and Fakery

By Ron Smith

A California Superior Court has ruled in favor of Rene Moore's breach-of-contract lawsuit against his former singing partner, Angela Winbush. Winbush was accused of using Rene & Angela material on an Isley Brothers album that she produced, with no assistance from Moore. Winbush has been ordered to pay Moore $200,000 in damages. Winbush says she will appeal. The judge threw out a countersuit from Winbush claiming that Moore physically abused her, since she could not prove it.

In her book, *My Family The Jacksons*, Katherine Jackson reveals that James DeBarge had "a serious drug problem," and that is mainly why she and the rest of the family were opposed to Janet marrying the singer. She also says that at one point Rebbie, Latoya and Janet had formed a trio, but disbanded because they could not agree on who should be the lead singer. Plus Rebbie and Latoya had problems getting along.

Al B. Sure! says he knows people are going to speculate about there being something going on between himself and Diana Ross, because of the duet they do on his latest album. (Would we really think that?)

Ronnie Dyson, who sang "Aquarius" in the musical *Hair* and had several hits in the 70s, died in a nursing home in Philadelphia at the age of 40. The nursing home will not reveal the cause of death, but according to a family friend, drugs had just taken their toll on his body. He was in such bad shape that his mother died of cancer last month and he wasn't even aware of it, says the friend.

With all the commotion over Marvin Gaye finally getting a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, it practically went unnoticed that Nancy Wilson had also received one. Congratulations Nancy, you deserve it. Also receiving stars recently: Arsenio Hall and LeVar Burton.

Looks like Ralph Tresvant has joined his new-edition buddies Bobby Brown, Bell Biv Devoe and Johnny Gill with successful solo projects. Ralph's single "Sensitivity" is in the top ten on the Billboard pop chart and went to number one on the R&B chart.

Martha Wash, formerly of the Weather Girls, has signed an eight-album deal with RCA Records as part of a settlement over the fact that she is the voice behind Black Box's hit "Everybody Everybody" and the group Seduction.

An interesting bit of trivia: did you know that The Miracles' all-time bestselling single was recorded after Smokey Robinson left the group? The song is "Love Machine," recorded with Billy Griffin (Smokey's replacement). It's a good song, but when I think of the Miracles, "The Tracks of My Tears" and "Ooo Baby Baby" will come to mind first.

I wonder if Milli Vanilli's hair is fake too?

Top ten soul singles 10 years ago this month: 1. "Celebration" (Kool & the Gang), 2. "Love T.K.O.'d" (Teddy Pendergrass), 3. "Master Blaster" (Stevie Wonder), 4. "Keep It Hot" (Cameo), 5. "Lovely One" (The Jacksons), 6. "Uptown" (Prince), 7. "United Together" (Aretha Franklin), 8. "More Ounce To The Bounce" (Zapp), 9. "Fantastic Voyage" (Lakeside), 10. "When We Get Married" (Larry Graham).

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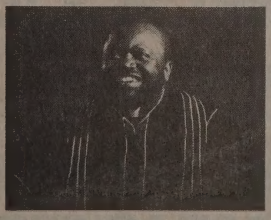

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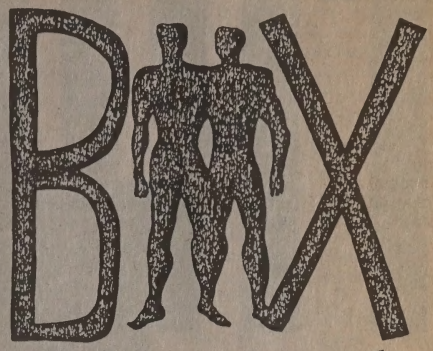

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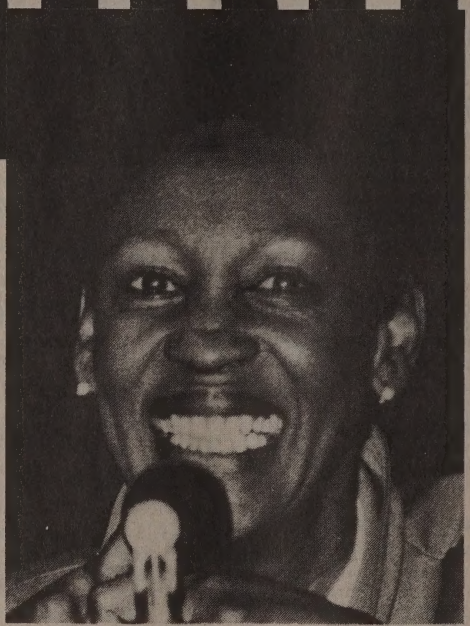

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AIDS BENEFIT LUNCHEON

Read My Lips

by Preston G. Guider

Three African-Americans were included in *Frontier*'s "People of the Year: 10 Who Made a Difference." Catch One's one and only **Jewel Thaïs-Williams,** South African activist **Tseko Simon Nikoli** and openly gay Army sergeant **Perry Watkins**...In case you thought the reason **Warren Sims** has had a 24-hour, 7-day-a-week smile on his face recently was the second annual **Gay and Lesbian Cultural Festival,** we'd like to offer another reason: **Reginald Hosea.** Reg-E, as the strikingly handsome artist is known, has been Sims's constant companion...**Spellman College** was the site of a two-hour panel discussion on sexuality, religion, family and homophobia in the black community recently. Participating organizations included Atlanta's **AALGA,** a student bisexual and lesbian organization called **Alternatives** and Spellman's Counseling Services Dept...**Sunil Gupta,** co-editor of *Estatic Antibodies,* spoke Nov. 8 in Toronto on the emergence of black lesbian and gay photography in the United Kingdom ...Michael Black accepted the Marquis Walker Humanitarian Award posthumously given to his lover **Walter Bland** at AALGA's third annual Banquet in November. Over 100 attended the ceremony held at Carbo's Cafe in Buckhead... **Mickey Fleming,** author of *About Courage,* participated in a P-FLAG workshop on coming out in November...**Sacul L'Adnbre's** *Lesbfriends,* "a lesbian situational comedy," was performed Nov. 28 with **Gwendolyn Bishop, Mina Newman, Nia Nonzamo** and **Tina Wilson.** It was produced by the **Sapphire Theatre Co.,** a Bay Area theater group for wimmin of color...Did you hear about **Robert Brick's** battle for reparations for the descendants of slaves? Yes, we have our forty acres stakes out, thank you, plus 130 years back interest, which reminds us, shouldn't we get *more* reparations for all the discrimination heaped on us as lesbians and gay men? We wonder if that might be a topic for the National Black confab in February...Speaking of the conference, **Randy Cochran** will be there facilitating a workshop called "Black, Male and Sexy." We guess he should know...**Tony Gartrell** is directing (again) a multiracial cast in *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf* at San Francisco's Zephyr Theatre...In a recent issue of the *Capital Spotlight,* a D.C. straight black newspaper, **Valencia Mohammed** warned that the **D.C. Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance** was involved in a public hearing to discuss the selection of the next D.C. school board superintendent. "Nowhere in the electoral process does a chosen special sexual lifestyle warrant preferential treatment or recognition," she wrote. "We are opposed to homophobic violence," she continued. "However, we don't want our schools used as recruiting stations for deviant behavior!" But evidently the *Spotlight* is open to diverse points of view because black gay Republican **Leonard Green** is now writing a column for them called "Gay-O-Centricity." In his first column, he calls for the mayor and council members to take a 20 percent pay cut and donate the money to gay-related causes...Meanwhile, his significant other, singer-songwriter **Steve Langley,** whose song, "Do What You Wanna Do" closed *Tongues Untied,* was all aglow after **Sweet Honey in the Rock** performed his "In This Land" at the group's 17th anniversary concert...*Tongues Untied,* meanwhile, has picked up another award. This one is from the **Los Angeles Film Critics Association,** who gave **Marlon Riggs** its Independent/Experimental Film award...In 1987 when *A Song for My Brothers...Tick...Tick...Tick* was first produced, it wasn't exactly gay playwriting's finest hour, but it was theater relevant to lesbians and gay men starved for their image across the footlights. And so **Bobby Smith,** who co-produced the play, which was adapted by **E. Lloyd Napier** from six hours of tapes by the late **Jerry Minor,** kept quiet about the technicalities of authorship. Now some five years later, he wants to set the record straight, saying the credit block should read "adapted from tapes by Jerry Minor." But E. Lloyd, who has been in theater for 20 years, stands by his work saying that authors always adapt and modify what has come before them, and that *A Song for My Brothers* has been copyrighted in his name. Although Bobby's version of the events has been independently confirmed, it would have been nice for this to have been settled behind closed doors, long ago. On the other hand, there's nothing like a little controversy to create audience interest. *A Song for My Brothers* will be presented as part of the African-American Gay and Lesbian Cultural Festival Sat., Feb. 9 at 2 p.m. Tickets are $10...**Rev. Carl Bean** of L.A.'s Minority AIDS Project joined **Rev. Joseph Lowery** and **Minister Louis Farrakhan** as among *Upscale* magazine's finalists for 1990 outstanding black minister...Kwanzaa celebrations took place in African-American lesbian and gay communities across the nation. In Los Angeles, **BMX** hosted a community celebration in honor of Ujima with members of the African-American Gay and Lesbian Cultural Alliance participating. The day before, BMX marched in the city's Kwanzaa Parade, the only gay group to do so...One of the larger Kwanzaa celebrations was held in New York, a joint undertaking of **MACT/NY, Bronx Lesbians United in Sisterhood, Gay Men of African Descent, African-American Wimmin United for Societal Change, Asian Pacific Islanders, the Boricua Gay and Lesbian Forum** and **Other Countries.** Where, pray tell, did all those people fit?...Other Countries, by the way, has released their schedule of activities *through June!* (No CPT for these folks.) Among the more interesting are a discussion of **Henry Louis Gates, Jr.'s** *The Signifying Monkey* set for Feb. 2 and **Gale Jackson** speaking on "the griot tradition as a tool of empowerment...We thought BBD stood for **Bell Biv Devoe,** but we've been told it stands for something more personal. We'd be just as comfortable seeing either one...**Dr. John Bush,** a former black co-chair of **NABWMT** and professor of sociology at Southeastern Massachusetts University, was the featured speaker at **BWMT/Cleveland's** 10th

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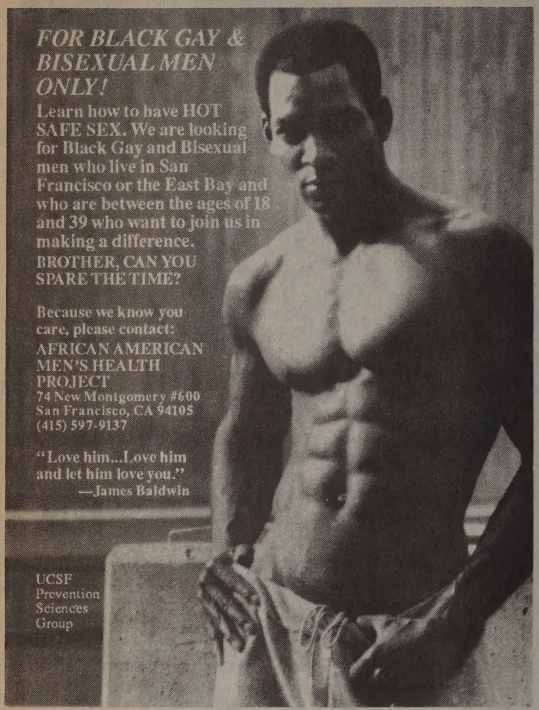
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anniversary the weekend of Nov. 2. **Don Moses,** the black co-chair of **BWMT/Youngstown** received the group's Good Neighbor certificate...**BWMT/Chicago** also held it's 10th Nov. 18. Keynote speaker **Dr. Richard McDonald** spared no details about men who dab in unsafe sex and know better. **Cary Jones** and **Bob Schwartz,** who were honored with the Ernest Johnson Memorial award "for dedication to the growth, spirit and purpose of BWMT/Chicago" demonstrated part of that purpose by celebrating their first year together... BWMT/Chicago is also a member of the 12 organizations throwing the fifth annual **Have a Heart Dance** at the Belmont Hotel Feb. 16...The film *House Party,* which contains an anti-gay rap song was nominated for an **NAACP** Image Award as best film. What image, we wonder, are they getting the award for? *House Party 2,* by the way, is in pre-production scheduled for a Christmas release. Once again, **Kid 'N Play** star, but the **Hudlin brothers** are apparently not involved. No problem, but make sure **Martin Lawrence** (who plays the DJ, Bilal) is back. Or better yet, just send him over the our house for a party...**Eartha Kitt** performed recently at the **Daisy Chain,** a gay club in Brixton, a London suburb ...**Tyrone Aiken** has launched **Ethof Dance** with performances scheduled for Feb. 8-10 at Spoke the Hub in Manhattan. The evening will also include poet **Craig G. Harris,** whose poetry is sharp, but whose tongue is sharper. Watching Craig read in Atlanta last February was like having a front row seat at a Gallagher show...bring your own seat belt ...And speaking of seat belts, hold on for this one. Chicagonative **Gene Cornelius,** who somehow manages simultaneously to be fiercely Afrocentric and the last Nordstom's queen *without contradiction,* has taken a detour across the color line. The blue-eyed fellow in question is **Bruce Hunt,** a professional video-maker, BLK volunteer and videoman for the AAGLCA and the BGLLF. We wish them well, but predict it won't last...**Reginald T. Jackson's** *Sixtynine* about a black gay actor and a well-to-do WASP divorcee who meet at a theater party runs Jan. 4-19...**Chacka** was crowned Miss Gay Teenage San Diego recently...**John S. Patterson** appears at Highways Feb. 15-17 presenting a solo work, "When the Colored Band Foes Marchin' Down the Street"... **Claudette "Sexy DJ" Colbert** provided the sounds while ladies (of both persuasions) and gents (of both persuasions) strutted their stuff and outdid each other on the dance floor. They dined on shrimp cocktail and cheese balls, veggies and dip, meats daintily grasped on cocktail picks and washed down with a continuous flow of Martinelli's. (Fun can be sober.) It was the first Royal Starlight Ball hosted by the **Committed Couples Group,** the brainchild of **Rev. Victoria Lee-Owens** and spouse, **Shirley A. Owens.** Three duos were honored for improvement and gains made in their relationships...Later in the month, Sexy DJ appears as part of High Performance Hip-Hop House Party at Highways on Jan. 16...The folks who bring you the *Advocate* every two weeks, have come out with *allblack,* an African-American porno picture magazine with jackoff stories. Among the models our personal favorite is **Mark Taylor,** who bulges and stretches to all the right proportions in all the right places. But *allblack* also includes a woefully out-of-date resource list (for instance, BLK was included, but BMX wasn't) that inexplicably includes the following categories: support/ social groups, publications, commercial erotica, AIDS information, prisoner resources and bars/clubs. *Prisoner resources?* We guess the Advocate is being unnecessarily upfront about where too many young black men happen to be...And finally, did you ever notice that **Paul** of the **Dutch Boys,** half of the DJ duo at **Club Bookies** in Detroit bears a striking resemblance to **Len Richardson** of New York's Other Countries? That means they're *both* hot!...Have fun and be careful. Remember, Preston's watching...

The Producers of Orange County's Gay and Lesbian Pride Celebration need your support! Orange County Pride (OCCP) strives to celebrate the spirit and accomplishments of Orange County's varied and Lesbian and Gay Community.

The first OCCP festival was held in Santa Ana's Centennial Park in August of 1989. Thanks to months of headline-grabbing controversy and homophobic accusations, advance publicity generated great attendance and success. The 1990 Celebration was staged on the campus of the University of California at Irvine.

As before, the event was preceded by months of planning by our volunteer staff, but it produced little publicity and only about 3,500 attended.

University officials have praised OCCP for an outstanding job and have said that they will welcome the 1991 Celebration back to the Campus and help promote it as part of their community outreach program.

We're asking you to join with us to help make a statement about our pride in ourselves and our community and make generous donations to help OCCP!

We will be here in 1991 with a visible display of unified pride. We need the entire Lesbian and Gay community to join us by contributing your energy, ideas, volunteer help and your donations to continue this tradition.

There are many opportunities available at OCCP.

We are currently seeking artists for poster and logo design, entertainers for fund raising events and volunteers for committee positions. Our celebration requires entertainers and submission from artists for the Art Expo. Volunteers are needed for the festival staff.

For information on how you may become involved, please call us at (714) 998-4498.

The Orange County Cultural Pride Celebration is the strongest demonstration of our commitment to move forward, be visible and show strength.

Together in Pride, we will return in 1991!

OCCP meets at 7:00 p.m., the third Monday of the month at the Metropolitan Community Church, 720 N. Spurgeon in Santa Ana. All are welcome and invited to attend.

Checks, made payable to OCCP, should be sent to: OCCP, P.O. Box 8167, Orange, California 92664.

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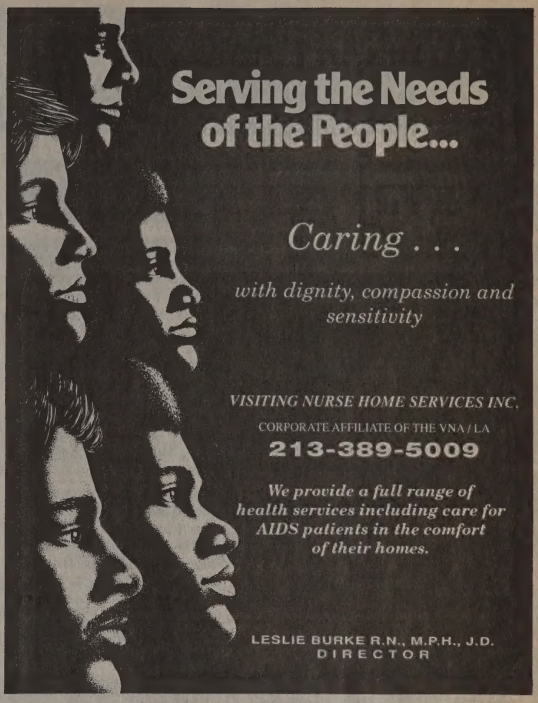
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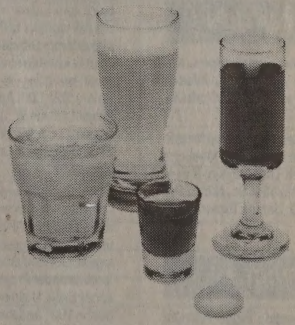

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If you are interested in receiving gifts (money) and making new friends, send a self-addressed envelope to: Karimu, Box 10372, Canoga Park, CA 91309 (26)

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Audio plays, wild, erotic, uncensored. Phone sample, 24 hours, 21-601-6010. Adults only. (28)

University degrees without classes! Accredited bachelor's, master's, doctorates. Job/life experience recognized. Free revealing facts. Thorson-BLK3, Box 470886, Tulsa, OK 74147. (27)

Finally...a gay traffic school. If you get a traffic ticket, come and spend a fun day with friends. Call 1-800-748-5933. TVS# 00694. (28)

ORGANIZATIONS

Hairy men/admirers. Bear/trappers! Nationwide explicit adlightings. Infopak $3.00: Hair, 59 West 10th, New York City 10011. (27)

Club Frottage, Networking group for safe (frottage/j.o.) men of color. Meetings held first and third Thursdays at 8 p.m. The Center, 208 W. 13th St., N.Y.C. For information call J. James Brown, 212-491-7228. (27)

SERVICES

Income tax preparation. Bigger refunds! Pay later may be available. 14 years of service to our community. Caesar Rucker, 213-676-9783. (28)

Professional Drug and Alcohol Help. Stop the anger. Stop the Depression. Stop the Abuse. For 24-hour help call 1-800-STOP-NOW (1-800-786-7669). The Open Quest Institute. Serving our community since 1978. (30)

Co-dependent? Small group for business or professional people. Insurance okay. Free interview. Jim Fain, MFCC. 213-276-4464. (26)

24-hour Crisis Hotline. Professional help is just a phone call away now! Depression, anxiety, AIDS-related mental/emotional problems. Other psychological problems. 1-800-444-9999. The Open Quest Institute. Serving our community since 1978. (33)

EMPLOYMENT OFFERED

Accounting Assistant. New opening for accounting assistant to perform data entry, typing, bank reconciliations. We also do filing and clerical duties. Must have basic bookkeeping skills, type 45 wpm and have a knowledge of computers. Previous accounting experience preferred. Salary $9-10 per hour D.O.E. The center is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer. Submit resume to: Director of Personnel, Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, 1213 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90038. (26)

Client Advocate, full time, to do crisis counseling and criminal justice advocacy for survivors of anti-lesbian/gay violence. BA or equivalent, 2 years counseling/case management experience. Salary DOE, excellent benefits. Send resume, cover letter and three references to: CUAV, 514 Castro, S.F., CA 94114 by Jan. 23, 1991. People of color and bilingual persons encouraged to apply. No phone calls. (26)

Community Outreach Worker. Conduct open "drop-in" groups, structure closed groups and individual counseling for black and Latina heterosexual and bisexual women with multiple partners, make community presentations to women at risk and do street outreach. Person must be bilingual (English/Spanish). Salary: $21,800. Apply to Minority AIDS Project, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036 or call Paul Davis 213-936-4949. An equal opportunity employer M/F. (26)

Conference Coordinator. Overall Responsibilities: Full time position reporting to the Deputy for Programs. The conference coordinator will be in charge of the logistics for Regional Skills Building Conference under Project HEAL and the National Skills Building Conference to be held in 1991 and the two National Public Policy Round Table discussions under the public policy education program. This position will coordinate the hotel accommodations, meeting space, program and schedule distribution as well as communications to and from the conference participants. In addition, the coordinator will prepare the conference evaluations. Specific Duties and Tasks: 1. Prepare a budget for each conference, including the expected revenue and expenses, including direct and indirect labor and overhead. 2. Coordinate the selection of scholarship recipients. 3. Select the site for each conference. 4. Communicate with the hotels as to accommodations, meeting space and food and beverage arrangements. 5. Distribute the conference information to the organizations on the NMAC mailing list. 6. Coordinate participation with other agencies in partnership with NMAC. Job Qualifications: College degree or equivalent in business administration or commensurate experience in conference logistics organization, minimum two years of experience in conference planning, including hotel accommodations, food and beverage, preparation of agendas and programs, participant registration and conference evaluation. Working knowledge of travel industry standards and procedures. Applicants must have demonstrated sensitivity to AIDS/HIV issues and excellent communication skills, be energetic and highly motivated. Women, people of color, HIV+ and physically challenged encouraged to apply. To apply send resume and cover letter to NMAC, 300 I St., N.E. #400, Washington, DC 20002, to the attention of Carlos Velez. All applications are held confidential. Salary: $27,000-$30,000 per year (depending on experience) plus benefits. (26)

Development Assistant. Assists the Development Director in running the development program and managing the development office. Serves as primary administrative and clerical support for the Development Director. Reports directly to the Development Director. Supervises volunteers, facilitates communication between the Los Angeles and San Francisco NGRA staff, and works closely with the San Francisco Administrator. Has initial contact with the general public via the phone and front office. Major Activities: 1. Primary reception coverage—phone/walk-in; 2. Oversee local volunteer program, including recruitment, training, supervision and retention; 3. Purchase and maintain Los Angeles office supplies, equipment and furniture; 4. Provide administrative and clerical support for the Development Director; 5. Process fundraising campaign returns and reports; 6. Prepare daily bank deposits and income summaries; 7. Batch source material; 8. Oversee donor acknowledgement program logistics; 9. Prepare monthly pledge program reminders to donors; 10. Maintain campaign summary files; 11. Data processing for capital fundraising program. Background: Bachelor's degree. Skills: 1. Well-organized, detail oriented, works with numbers accurately; 2. Strong interpersonal skills; 3. Moderate computer and typing skills, including proficiency with Mircosoft Word and willingness to train on NGRA programs; 4. a background in office systems, management and non-profit development preferred; 5. Strong commitment to civil rights for gays, lesbians, and people with HIV disease. Salary: $22,000-$26,000 (depending on experience). Location: Los Angeles. Starting Date: Immediately. Early applications are strongly encouraged. Search will continue until suitable candidate is hired. To apply please send cover letter, resume and references to: National Gay Rights Advocates, Development Assistant Search, 8901 Melrose Ave. #220, Los Angeles, CA 90069. National Gay Rights Advocates is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer. Lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, women, persons of color, and/or bilingual/bicultural individuals are strongly encouraged to apply. (26)

Director of Client Services: Overall responsibilities: Full time position reporting to the executive director, responsibility for general and specific, planning, management, grant writing, and programmatic activities of the MAP department of client services. Responsibilities include but are not limited to general client services program oversight; supervision of client service staff and consultants; management of program and individual project expenses; and program coordination with public and private agencies, funders and other MAP departments. In addition this position involves advocacy to city, county, state and federal agencies for the service needs of PWAs/PWARCs, HIV positives and their loved ones...Specific Duties and Tasks...Provide general oversight for all MAP client service programs and activities, including but not limited to case management services, in-home care, housing services, practical and psychosocial support, as well as volunteer services...Provide supervision and direction to client service staff and consultants. Establish and monitor time frames and deadlines for the completion of program tasks...Provide direction and focus for MAP on issues of client services and needs by actively participating in agency planning efforts...Perform project director responsibilities for all client service contracts and grants including but not limited to communication with contract officer(s) and the submission of required reports ...Perform all other specific programmatic responsibilities and tasks assigned to the project director under contract and grant agreements involving the client services department...Monitor client services program overall and individual project expenses for compliance with budget and grant guidelines. Approve any purchase orders for program or project expenditures...Other activities, as directed, in support of the objectives and mission of the Client Services Department and the Minority AIDS Project...Job Qualifications: Applicants are required to hare: a MSW degree and a California state license (LCSW); two years of supervisory experience, preferably with a community based non-profit agency; demonstrated experience working in Black and Latino/a communities; sensitivity to issues of AIDS in racial and ethnic communities, and AIDS among Gay and bisexual Black and Latino men; grant management experience: and good writing skills. Applicants should be energetic and highly motivated. Bilingual skills, a plus...Salary Range: $34,000 to

The Legal Stuff

■ **Complete and sign the following. None of this information will appear in your ad.**

Name_____

Address_____

City_____

State_____ Zip_____

Phone (_____) _____

■ I am an adult of legal voting age and consent to the placing of my ad in BLK. I understand that the Blk Publishing Company is in no way responsible for any transactions between myself and any persons I contact through its publications.

Signed_____

The Rates

■ **Personal ads** of 8 words or fewer are free if this form is used and your ad is sent by mail. No duplicates or copies. More than 8 words, the rate is 40 cents per additional word. Abbreviations are unnecessary since you are charged by the word.

■ **Employment offered ads** may be placed at the rate of 10 cents per word. There is no limit to the number of words.

■ **All other ads** take the rate of 40 cents per word.

BLK Mailboxes

■ **Mailbox number and forwarding service.** You may have the replies to your *personal or employment offered ad* sent to a BLK Mailbox for $7 per month. Replies are forwarded to you in a plain envelope once a week, for six weeks after your ad appears. Mail may not be picked up in person.

■ **Replying to a BLK Mailbox.** Only letters may be sent to BLK Mailboxes. They may not be used for the distribution of bulk mail or circulars. To reply, address your envelope:

BLK Mailbox #_____
BLK Classifieds
Box 83912
Los Angeles, California 90083-0912

The Rules

■ Deadline: First Friday of the month of publication.

■ Ads received after deadline will appear in the following issue.

■ Open account billing available on approved credit. Terms: Net 10 EOM. Minimum charge is $15. *Credit must be approved in advance.*

■ **Rules and regulations.** *A word is any group of letters or numbers with a space on either side of it.* Free ads may run a maximum of three times, then must be renewed. We reserve the right to reject, rewrite or edit ads including those that advertise or solicit sexual acts considered unsafe by current AIDS criteria. Telephone numbers in ads must be verified prior to publication at a charge of $3 (within California $1). If a number has been previously verified by BLK, attach an ad containing the number to your new ad. Advertiser's complete name, address and authorizing signature must accompany ad. This information is confidential and will not appear in your ad.

By Telephone

■ You may place your ad by telephone and charge it to Visa, MasterCard or American Express if your order totals $15 or more.

■ Call toll-free 800-TRUE-BLK anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Tell the computer which credit card you have, the card number, expiration date and what you want your ad to say.

By Mail

■ Completely free ads may only be placed by mail.

■ Ads that are not completely free may be paid by check, Visa, MasterCard or American Express. Do not send cash.

■ Send to: BLK Classifieds, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912.

By Credit Card

VISA MasterCard AMERICAN EXPRESS Card

■ Minimum for credit card billing is $15 whether by phone or by mail.

Name of credit card_____ Expires_____

Credit card number_____

Your Ad

■ **Print clearly what you want to appear in your ad. Use a separate sheet if you need more space.**

_____

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■ **Figure cost of ad:**

_____ words at 40¢ (8 free if personal ad) $_____

_____ words at 10¢ (employment ads) $_____

Cost to run ad one month $_____

Number of times you want ad to run _____

Total cost of ads $_____

Phone verification at $3 (within CA $1) $_____

BLK Mailbox at $7 per month $_____

One-year subscription at $18 to BLK $_____

Total enclosed (send no cash) $_____

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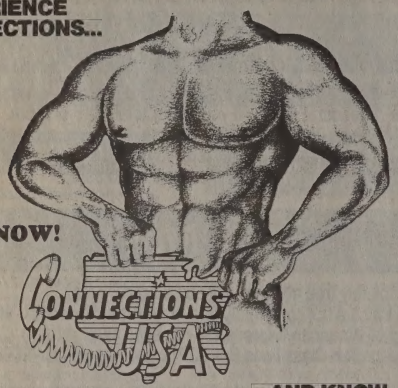

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- Fun—Safe—Easy to use—Open 24 hours

Gay owned & operated. $2/min. More info: (305) 565-4455, Ext: 1711

Human Rights CAMPAIGN FUND

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Human Rights Campaign Fund, the nation's largest gay and lesbian political organization, is currently accepting resumes for the following five staff positions:

Lesbian Project Director
Individual will implement current lesbian issues project of integrating lesbian issues into the political, legislative and mobilization components of HRCF, providing education to the lesbian community regarding federal legislation and increasing lesbian participation in HRCF activities. Salary: high thirties

Development Director
Individual will be responsible for creating and implementing an annual $3 million plus fundraising plan including events, major donor solicitation, direct mail and special projects. Prior experience required. Salary: mid-forties.

Administrative Assistant
Individual shall provide administrative and other support, both clerical and substantive, for HRCF PAC, the Campaign Fund's political action committee. Salary: low twenties.

Civil Rights Researcher
Individual will work with the legislative Department to secure passage of the Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Bill by building documentation of discrimination against gay and lesbian Americans. Salary: low twenties.

West Coast Canvass Coordinator
Individual will increase participation in SPEAK OUT, the Campaign Fund's constituent pressure program. This position will requires direct canvassing and supervision of large teams of volunteer canvassers at gay and lesbian events. This position will be based in San Francisco. Salary: low twenties.

All positions include health, life and disability insurance. Deadline for application is Feb. 1. To apply, please write to NEW POSITIONS, Human Rights Campaign Fund, 1012 14th St, NW, Suite 607, Washington, DC 20005. Include cover letter, resume and writing sample. HRCF also operates an on-going internship program that offers stipended positions in six departments. For job descriptions or information on the internship program, please call Anne Thiesen at 202-628-4160.

HRCF encourages women, people of color and differently abled individuals to apply.

$38,000. Application deadline: Open until filled. How to apply: Call or write the Minority AIDS Project for an application at 5149 West Jefferson, Los Angeles, CA 90016, (213) 936-4949. Women, People of Color, HIV+ and physically challenged encouraged to apply. (27)

Director of Education: Overall responsibilities: Full time position reporting to the executive director. Responsibility for general and specific, planning, management, grant writing, and programmatic activities of the MAP Department of Education. Responsibilities include but are not limited to general education program oversight; supervision of education departments staff and consultants; management of program and individual project expenses: and program coordination with public and private agencies, funders and other MAP departments. In addition this position involves advocacy to city, county, state and federal agencies for the education prevention needs within racial and ethnic minority communities of Los Angeles...Specific Duties and Tasks ...Provide supervision and direction to education department staff and consultants. Establish and monitor time frames and deadlines for the completion of program tasks...Provide direction and focus for MAP on issues of AIDS education and prevention by actively participating in agency planning efforts...Perform project director responsibilities for all education department contracts and grants including but not limited to communication with contract officer(s) and the submission of required reports...Perform all other specific programmatic responsibilities and tasks assigned to the project director under contract and grant agreements involving the education department...Monitor education department overall program, and individual project expenses for compliance with budget and grant guidelines. Approve any purchase orders for program or project expenditures...Other activities, as directed, in support of the objectives and mission of the education department and the Minority AIDS Project...Job Qualifications: Applicants are required to have: a Masters of Public Health degree and/or commensurate health education background and job experience; two years of supervisory experience; Preferably with a community based nonprofit agency; demonstrated experience working in Black and Latino/a communities; sensitivity to issues of AIDS in racial and ethnic communities, and AIDS among Gay and bisexual Black and Latino men; grant management experience; and good writing skills. Applicants should be energetic and highly motivated. Bilingual skills a plus...Salary: $34,000 to $36,000. Application Deadline: Open until filled. How to apply: Call or write the Minority AIDS Project for an application at 5149 West Jefferson, Los Angeles, CA 90016, (213) 936-4949. Women, People of Color, HIV+ and physically challenged encouraged to apply. (27)

Editor/Assistant for adult all-black magazine. Full or part-time. Must be familiar with Macintosh (Pagemaker or QuarkX-Press). Send résumé to BFP, Box 42628, Los Angeles, CA 90050. (30)

Hotline Coordinator, part time (20 hours). Train and supervise volunteers for night/weekend crisis line, provide backup to staff and volunteers on-line. Peer counseling experience, knowledge of issues affecting survivors of domestic and anti-lesbian/gay violence required. Benefits. Resume, cover letter and three references to: CUAV, 514 Castro, S.F., CA 94114 by Jan. 23, 1991. People of color and bilingual persons encouraged to apply. No phone calls. (26)

Office Manager, $20-22K, proven skills in office management, computer input and retreival, filing and record-keeping systems, oral and written communication. Background and training in cross-cultural interaction with persons with HIV disease. Call between Jan. 22-31, 1991 at 213-295-2687 for appointment. Ask for Mark. (26)

Prevention/Outreach Specialist. The Alcoholism Center for Women is looking for a bilingual (Spanish/English), bicultural Prevention/Outreach Specialist to join Lapis, its program for Latina and other Lesbians of Color. The successful candidate will show a demonstrated ability to organize, schedule and facilitate workshops, support groups and events for specialized audiences such as incest survivors and adult daughters of alcoholics. Strong writing skills, familiarity with newsletters, an established professional network and media contacts would be considered an asset. Please call Msindo Koff, Director of Prevention and Community Services at 213-381-7805. (26)

Program Administrator. Being Alive, People with HIV/AIDS Action Coalition, is seeking creative applicants for a position as Progam Administrator. The Program Administrator is responsible for coordination of Being Alive services in the followijng areas: newsletter, speakers' bureau, support groups, advocacy, peer support and social events, to report to Executive Director and Board. The main functions of the Program Adminsitrator are to insure that these programs are maintained and documented effectively and to provide support for the large complement of HIV+ volunteers. Salary is $20,000 annually. Being Alive was founded by PWAs in 1986 and is still the only organization consisting almost exclusively of people with HIV/AIDS. For this position, experience in management of volunteers and staff is important; personal experience with HIV is essential. Women and people of color are especially urged to apply. Resumes should be sent to Being Alive, 4222 Santa Monica Blvd., L.A., CA 90029. (26)

Teachers. School's c !l The Gay and Lesbian Learning Center needs teachers for fun and informative classes for gay men and lesbians. Call with ideas. 213-960-1029. (26)

West Coast Canvass Coordinator. Human Rights Campaign Fund, national lesbian and gay political organization, seeks West Coast Canvass Coordinator. Responsibilities include building/developing our constituent mail program, Speak Out, through direct canvassing. Responsibilities will also include recruiting and supervising other individuals to coordinate canvassing events throughout the West Coast. Position will be

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Two Recent Releases from BLACK FOREST PRODUCTIONS

Paul Hanson's STAR SEARCH

Reg. $69.95 **Now only $54.95**

Paul Hanson's searching for that one satisfying man in this all-action video with an all-black cast. The casting couch never gets a rest in this one!
(Item 2031)

WORKING IT UP with Bobby Joe

Reg. $69.95 **Now only $54.95**

Let Bobby Joe teach you the fine art of exercising your man in this superb and humorous mock "how-to" videotape. Vivid photography and endless closeups.
(Item 2032)

To order by mail send check, money order, or your Visa, MC, or AmEx number (with expiration date), plus a signed statement thay you are over 21 to: **BIJOU VIDEO**, 1363 N. Wells, Chicago, IL 60610.
Add $4 for shipping 1 tape, $1 for each additional tape. We ship only via UPS. No P.O. boxes.
We do not ship to MS, NC, NE, PR, TN, UT, or VI.

A free catalog (a $15.00 value!) is sent with your first-time order.

Sale prices good through February 28, 1991.

BIJOU VIDEO *The Gay Video Experts* **1-800-932-7111**

Goodbye to shapeless, bony, flat, sagging buns with Super Shaper Buns Briefs.

Exclusively Designed Men's Padded Briefs...Give You

EYE-CATCHING BUTTOCKS INSTANTLY!

NOT A GIRDLE! 100% UNDETECTABLE!

THE ONLY MEN'S UNDERGARMENT THAT CAN MAKE THESE CLAIMS!

- **Fills out your rear end without fattening diets.**
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A Fashion First!

Specially Constructed Pads provide you with what nature may have negected.

The world has never seen briefs like these: Ingeniously designed pads discreetly "build-up" your rear...center stitch seams..."eye popping" cleavage...bottom band lifts and thrusts...everything acts together to show off your new perfectly proportioned buttocks. Special abdominal panel flattens your middle, makes you look pounds slimmer! You look younger, trimmer, sexier!

Meticuously Tailored...Totally Comfortable ...Invisibly Worn...Machine Washable!

Made of the softest lycra spandex fabric that s-t-r-e-t-c-h-e-s with you...acts like a second skin. Never a seam or bulge. Totally undetectable. No ride-up crotch...no binds...no pinches...Your designer hugging slacks, jeans, sportswear will fit better for a sleek look. Only you will know the Hollywood Secret to looking like a "Hunk."

Bottoms Up America

It's a known fact that men's buttocks are the most alluring part of the male anatomy. Super Shaper Buns Briefs in the One and only undergarment that could give you those "pumped-up" muscular looking buns instantly! See for yourself...One glance in your mirror will prove that you too can look like a "Hollywood Hunk."

Spice It Up!

Super Shaper Buns Briefs is available with a snap-in fly front endowment pad...specially designed and contoured to show off your manhood in the most exciting detail.

CLIP AND MAIL COUPON TODAY

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YES! I too would like to look like a "Hollywood Hunk" instantly! Please rush today, my Super Shaper Buns Briefs.

☐ Super Shaper Buns Briefs only $16.98 + $3 S.&H.
☐ **BONUS OFFER!** Buy 2 for only $29.98 + $4 S.&H.
☐ **SPICE IT UP!** Endowment Pad only $3.00 extra.

Please specify waist size: _____

Enclosed find $ _____. Sorry, no COD's.
OR CHARGE IT! ☐ VISA ☐ Mastercard

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Signature _____

Name _____

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Allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery.

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If you know what you want and are willing to get it, then this is the line you want to call!
TRY OUR FREE LINE
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0.95 CTS. PER MINUTE BILLED TO YOUR PHONE
1-900-820-8017 VOICE MAIL!
0.75 CTS. PER MINUTE, $1.50 FIRST MINUTE.
YOU MUST BE 18 OR OLDER.

based in the Bay Area and will travel extensively. Qualifications: outgoing, assertive, ability to work under pressure and have excellent communication skills. Previous canvass experience is beneficial but not required. Women and people of color are encouraged to apply. Send cover letter and resume to: HRCF Canvass Manager, 1012-14th St., N.W. #607, WDC 20005. (26)

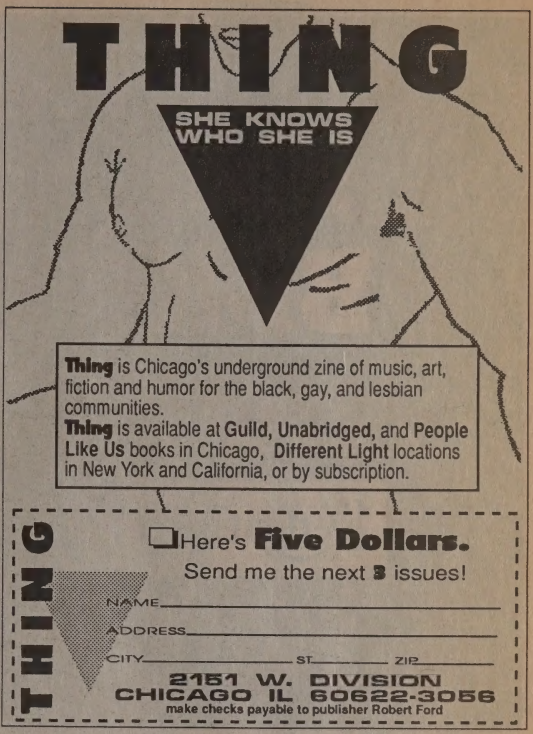
CALLS FOR SUBMISSION

Frameline, a non-profit lesbian and gay media arts organization, is now accepting entrires for the 15th San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, June 21-30, 1991. Entries are accepted in the foollowing formats: 35mm, 16mm, Super-8, 3/4" and 1/2" video (NTSC). The deadline is March 15, 1991. There is no entry fee, but return postage must accompany all entries. Frameline, Box 14792, San Francisco, CA 94114, 415-861-5245. (26)

Audition tapes are currently being sought from performers wishing to entertain at the 1991 Gay and Lesbian Pride Festival, June 22-23 in West Hollywood Park. Entertainment will be featured on Main stage as well as a newly designed Country Stage and at the disco dancing pavilion. Acts being sought include comedians, magicians, singers and dancers performing all varieties of entertainment such as country western, rock 'n roll and jazz. Disc jockeys are needed for the Disco Pavilion as well as for the Country Western Dance area. Entertainers and DJs should submit audition tapes (audio cassette or VHS video) to the Entertainment Committee, Christopher Street West/Los Angeles, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd. #109-24, West Hollywood, CA 90046. The deadline for submissions is April 1. (26)

Submissions wanted for 1991 Spinsters Book Company Lesbian Fiction Contest to find novel-length, well-crafted fiction that focuses on the lives of lesbians. Manuscripts will go through a judging process, with the best five going to a finals judge. The finals judge will change each year, the selection to reflect the diversity of writers we seek to publish. The winner (announced in August) will be given a contract to publish her novel with Spinsters and $2,000 in prize money (which is in addition to any royalties she earns on the book). The book will be published in the spring of 1992. Form: 1. Submissions must be postmarked no earlier than January 2 and no later than February 28 of 1991. 2. Mark clearly on the outside of the envelope: "Contest Submission." 3. Each entry must be a single work of fiction, 200 to 350 manuscript pages in length. No previously published works, works already accepted for publication or works being considered by other publishers may be submitted. 4. Manuscripts must be typewritten and double-spaced on 8-1/2 x 11 paper. Computer printouts must be of letter quality in dark ink. 5. Author's name cannot appear on the manuscript. Include a cover letter with the title of the work, your name, address and phone number. Judges will not see cover sheets. 6. Please do not send originals, as manuscripts will not be returned. Send a self-addressed, stamped postcard if you wish to be notified that your manuscript has arrived. 7. Please no phone calls. No revisions will be accepted during the judging process. Revisions for the winning manuscript will of course be considered and discussed during the editing process. Content: Content must be well-crafted fiction focusing, in some part, on the life or lives of lesbians. We wish to encourage fiction that treats lesbian lifestyles with the honesty and complexity they deserve. Announcement of Finalists and Winner: In June, five finalists will be notified by mail. Within one month these finalists must provide Spinsters Book Company with the following: a) a signed agreement that, if selected, the author will sign a contract with Spinsters; b) a signed agreement that, if selected, the author will be available for media interviews; and c) a black-and-white photograph suitable for media reproduction. Failure to provide any of the above will automatically disqualify contestant. In August, the winner and remaining finalists will be contacted by phone. All other contestants will be notified by mail. At that time the winner's name will be announced to major media, including lesbian and alternative media. Both the judge and the winner of the First Annual Lesbian Fiction Contest will be announced in September of 1990. Award: The winner of the Spinsters Lesbian Fiction Contest will receive a cash prize of $2,000 (which is not an advance against royalties but a sum above royalties) and a Spinsters standard contract to publish, which will incorporate Spinsters' standard royalty schedule. Send manuscripts to: Spinsters Book Company, Box 410687, San Francisco, CA 94141. (26)

Lesbian Herstory Archives has announced a call for submissions for an exhibit on African-American lesbians. Curators for "Keepin' On" are currently looking for materials that reflect the strength and creativity of the African-American lesbian community, past and present, private and public. Any material donated can be dedicated in memorial, or have restrictions placed on it as to availability to visitors to the Archives. The Archives can also arrange to copy materials and return originals, if desired. For this exhibit, they would like to gather items that can be shown in a public space and will be able to be included in the exhibit as it travels to other groups across the country on loan. The Archives is looking for "found images" (a photo from a yard sale, they 'look' gay, but who knows?...), family photos, historical pieces (old love letters, postcards, buttons, handcrafts), organization material (old "Azalea," meeting notes), artwork, or significant memorabilia. All materials must be received by mid-January to be considered for this show, but the Archives is happy to receive donations to the collection at any time. For more information, call Morgan Gwenwald at 212-874-7232 or mail submissions to LHA, Box 1258, New York, NY 10116. All materials will be added to the Archives collection, and as many as possible will be included in the show. The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The Center
208 West 13th

No Registration
Required

GMHC

first exhibit of this show will be in New York City at the Lesbian and Gay Community Center, and will open mid-February. That showing will be co-sponsored by the LGCSS National Museum of Lesbian and Gay History, and will run through mid-March. (26)

PLACES TO LIVE

House for rent. Looking for 2 or 3 responsible people to rent a large beautiful house in the Crenshaw-Baldwin Hills area. 2 large bedrooms, large dining room, living room, breakfast room, fireplace, large front and back yard. 2-car garage. Washer and dryer. $500 month. Price negotiable. 213-733-1681. Call anytime. (27)

The West Adams area. One bedroom apartment near Arlington and 37th Place in quiet, charming older triplex. Also ideal for seniors. $575 month. 213-938-5029. (26)

FOR SALE

Heat! Chicago black men in erotic photos! For sampler set send: Age (21+), signature, $10 to Zebra Studios, Box 138271, Chicago, IL 60613. (28)

True GB sex stories by white man. Mail SASE to 1800 Market #230. S.F. 94102. (27)

Gay magazines. Pack of 6 hot used magazines. Just $15. P&H, Inc. Send check or M.O. to Island Marketing, 127 S. Shore Dr., Island Lake, IL 60042. State you are 21. (37)

BLK T-shirts, sweatshirts, key tags, back issues, note cards, etc. now available mail order. Write: BLK Mail and Femail Store Catalog, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. Or call 800-TRUE-BLK, anytime 24 hours a day, seven days a week. (TF)

MASSEURS

Big, black and hairy, 38, 6'1", 175 lbs., lean, fit, top man, hung 8x6, cut, $50 min. in/out, ask for Mike. 213-874-9203. (29)

Randy Cochran. 818-997-3776. L.A.'s hot top black studman. Hung huge, yet versatile. 28, 5'9", 160 lbs., with a tight smooth body. 24-hour, in-out sessions. $125-$200/hr. Video titles include "Black Attack," "Heatwaves," "Black Force" and many more. Visits are in person... Not associated with 976-WOLF. Safe sex okay. (29)

The Real McCoy. Very handsome Italian professional, 29, great body, offers custom-tailed 5-star bodywork to the discerning man. Atmosphere, style, technique and more. Quite simply...the best! 213-288-6800. (30)

Professional massage. You've seen the rest. Now deal with the best. Licensed/non-sexual massage. Call for appointment. 465-8147. Ask for Lamont. (26)

Attractive, well-built white guy, 29, 5'7", 135, offers deep, thorough relaxing massage to other in-shape guys, candelight, table. $40 in West Hollywood; $? out. Greg 213-288-6416. (26)

I'm Thomas, a tall, goodlooking white masseur near Plam Springs airport. Let me work on your stressed-out body and soul. 619-322-8077. (27)

Rugged Brazilian. Full body massage by a handsome 6'2", 205 lbs. bodybuilder. Legit with table. $50/in. $75/out. West Hollywood location. 24 hours. Tony, 213-274-8070. (26)

Stop. Handsome, bubble-butted athlete will rub you in all the right spots. Don't be duped by phony masseurs. Let my legit, certified hands do the walking on your stressed body. $40 in. $60 out. 95% recall. Call Bryan. 213-224-0243. 24 hours. (29)

WOMEN'S PERSONALS

BF, 26, student, not looking for romance through this ad. However, I would like to exchange postcards, short notes or long letters with women from all over. I live in Detroit. BLK Mailbox #107. (27)

Fluffy, feminine, early 40s, fun-loving, witty, sensitive, romantic, who appreciates nature, intimacy, looking for independent butch. I am 5'7½", sexy, plump. Seek friendship first. Who knows what can happen? BLK Mailbox #115. (28)

Professional GBF, 5'8", 160 lbs., 39 years, seeks fems with no drugs, alcohol or smoking. Prefer Christian lady. Let's give it a try for lasting relationship. I've been celibate for the past 3 years. For special times now. I love to please, and passion's my first name. Curious? BLK Mailbox #103. (26)

MEN'S PERSONALS INTERNATIONAL

Young, nice looking, passive Brazilian gay boy, 30 years old, golden skin, sweet smile, dreamful eyes, seeks masculine, active, black gay men, any age, for exchange of letters and possible coming meeting. Write in English soon. Diogo Fontenelle, rua Gustavo Sampaio, 301, 60.455 Fortaleza, Ceara, Brazil. (26)

Attractive Frenchman, 37, 5'11", 165 lbs., good hairy body, Greek active, well-traveled, multi-lingual, seeks very muscular, masculine, Greek passive, black or Puerto Rican friends, 19-35. Visitors welcome to Paris. Photo, please. BLK Mailbox #104. (26)

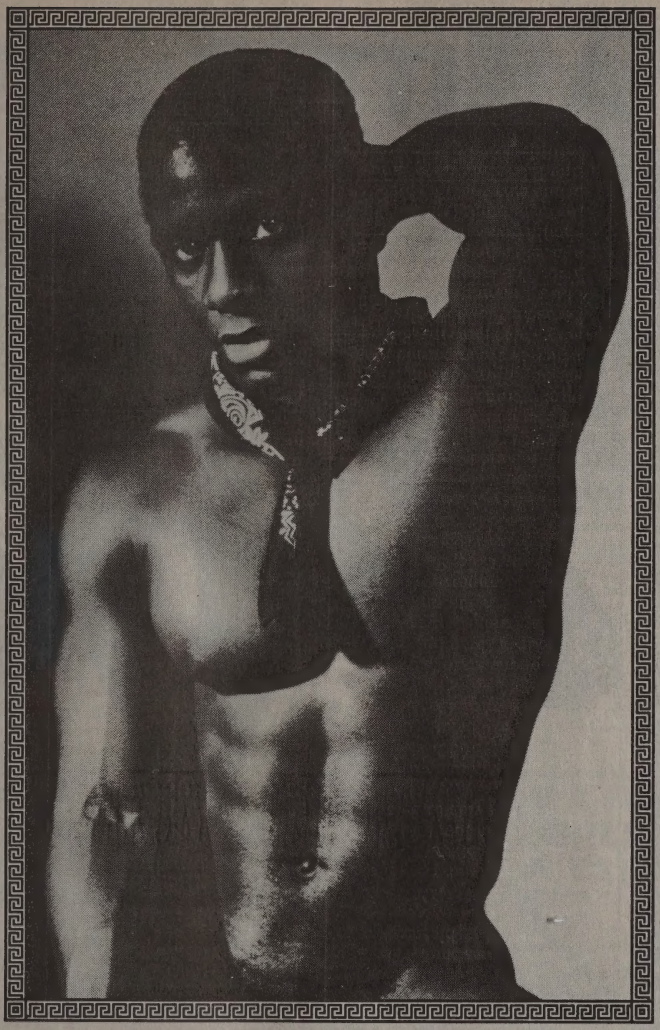
Dutch GWM, attractive, 36, wants to correspond with GBM and exchange photos. Tony Spoelstra, Box 4017, 8600 GA, Sneek, Holland. (26)

GWM, teddy-bear, seeks dominant BM tops for intimate friendship and fun. Doug, #103-4800 Arbutus, Vancouver, BC V6J 4A5. 604-263-3991. (TF)

MEN'S PERSONALS EASTERN U.S.

Attractive, educated black male, masculine, healthy, witty, funny, romantic, budding screenwriter, 5'9", 165 pounds, 32, nice brown bod, seeks a goodlooking, masculine, muscular, bearded, Sam

THE BODY BLACK 1991 CALENDAR



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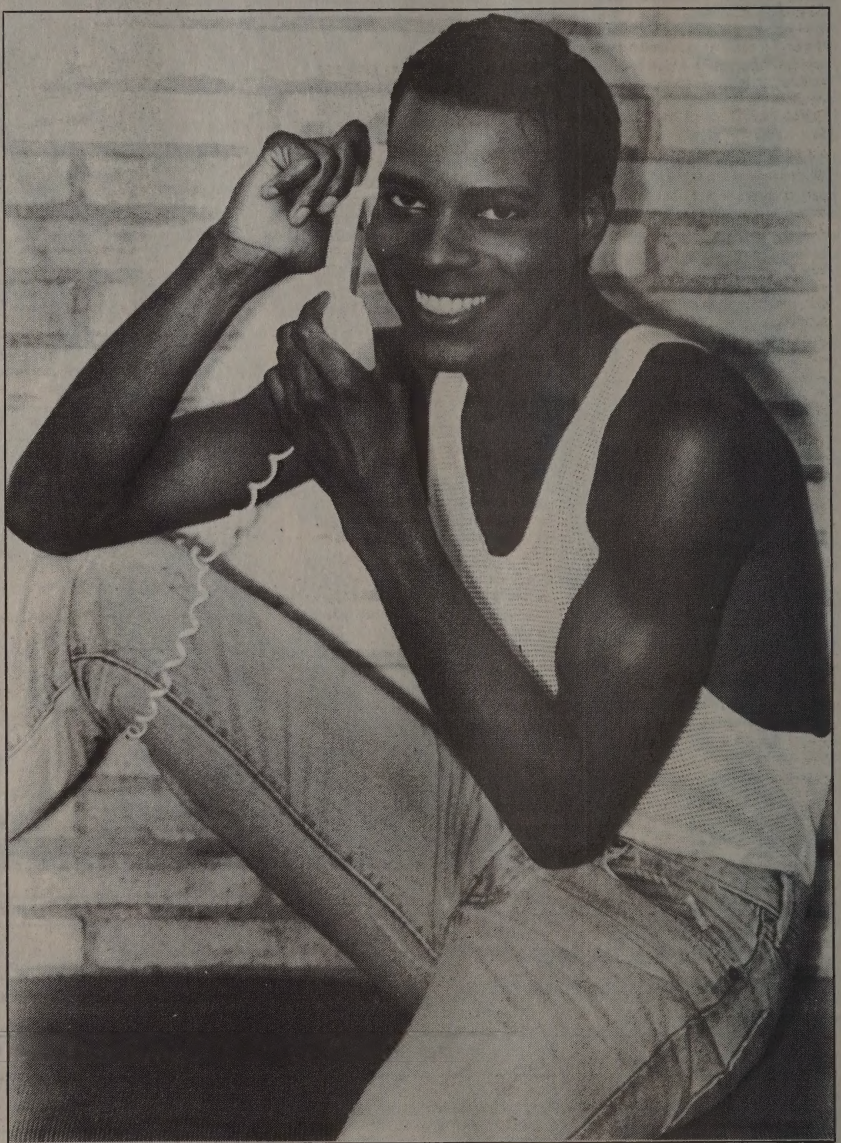

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Elliot or Bruce Willis type, professional, thirtysomething, creative, smart, who enjoys art, cinema, jazz, country weekends, snuggle bundling, cozy intimacy, cream and berries in bed, and delicious monogamy. Serious males only. Photo desired. Michael, Box 350, Richmond, Virginia 23202. (26)

Nice guy seeks same for friendship. This 50-year-old straight-acting WM is looking for a very masculine BM. Pleasant disposition, positive outlook and stability are important to me. Blue collar, thick endowment and trim build are pluses. Send detailed letter and photo of yourself to: BLK Mailbox #118 or call 301-779-6738. Pen pals welcome. Visitors to D.C. should call in advance of arrival. (29)

White male, middle age, enjoys the company and friendship of black males for dinner, theater and quiet times. John, Box 10042, Staten Island, NY 10310. (29)

Very lonely black gent, retired professional, 65, silver-haired, medium brown skin, very short, stocky (5'2", 155), shy, submissive, servile, plain looking, conversationalist, Fr/Actonly; eagerly seeks male (only) friends, guests (blacks, Hispanics, any race/age) who are clean, intelligent, dominant, large, macho, Fr/Pass., verbally aggressive (no drugs, S/M), discreet. 212-681-0179 evenings only 9-11:30 p.m. Dave R., 930 Grand Concourse #6B, Bronx, N.Y. 10451. No inmates. (27)

GBM, masculine, intelligent seeks GM. Box 400665, Brooklyn, NY 11240. (28)

Muscular, hard runner's build. Hot, sensual, HIV-, hung, versatile. Smooth, upbeat professional GWM, 44, 5'5", 128 lbs., enjoying fitness, outdoors, humor, arts, work, romance, travel, seeks warm-spirited, firm-bodied, hot-blooded, creative-minded, healthy-habited GBM, 30-45, any location, for fun/friendship/relationship. Rick, Box 4102, Utica, NY 13504. (27)

Black male, 31, 190 lbs., stocky muscular build, seeks white males, 28-50, from Connecticut to Maine. I will be re-locating to Newport, R.I. June or July 1991. (27)

Black hung seeking black hung. Box 602, Huntsville, Alabama 35804. (28)

GBM, 20, seeks GWM for relationship. Box 1825, Rahway, NJ 07065. (28)

Masculine GBM wanted by goodlooking GBM, 24, for friendship/fun. Send letter/picture to: Boxholder, Box 2122, New York 10008-2122. (28)

NY, frottage (rubbing/j.o.), GPR/GMAD, social, safe, 20-40, frottage. 212-491-7228. (26)

Muscular, GBM, top, 52, seeks, muscular, intelligent, bottoms, all ages/races. J. Tree, Box 161, S.I., NY 10304. (26)

GWM, 39, 5'9", 165. NY City. Intelligent, energetic, low key, sexually alive, looking for similar man who is black, and who is interested in at least some of the following: music, hooks, jogging, gym, travel, movies, plays, museums, computers. Goal: relationship. Please send letter and photo (if possible). I'm serious! BLK Mailbox #116. (26)

Hot-assed white boy, 33, 5'9", 152, goodlooking and submissive, needs dominant, verbal, very masculine topman, black or Latin, to make me service and worship you and your buddies. Will wear panties and be your bussyboy. Will write to real men anywhere, even in prison. Box 581, N.Y., N.Y. 10274. (26)

WM, 53, seeks thin, romantic, clean black male in Boston. BLK Mailbox #113. (28)

Congenial WM ISO BM. Box 284, Hartford, CT 06141-0284. (TF)

MEN'S PERSONALS CENTRAL U.S.

WM, 30, 5'7", 150 lbs., goodlooking, wants to be submissive sexually by goodlooking BM. I'm into leather, and like it wild and freaky. I have a bubble butt; you must have one too. No fats or femmes. We'll start as friends and see what develops. Detroit. 313-527-2965. (26)

Listen up, fellas. GBM, 30, 6'1", 210 lbs., masculine build, college football jock, top, professional. I'm looking for a GBM, Carribean, South American, Oriental bottom, ages 25 to 45. No fatties. I'm HIV-, willing to travel to East Coast, Midwest, Southeast U.S.A. Looking for that special someone who is interested in dining, movies, jazz, fitness. A bottom who wants to be with someone who wants to make you happy. Please send letter, photos. Nude photo will get even faster reply. Mail to BLK Mailbox #110. I am very passionate. I like to give a warm massage and rub you all over. (28)

GWM, 30s, blond, 5'9", 140 lbs., athletic, masculine, movies, travel, working out, etc. seeks athletic GBM or BiBM, under 40 years old, for safe, hot encounters. Top/bottom. 312-327-4895. (28)

Masculine black man wanted by masculine white 40s businessman. Your age/education are not important. I'm willing to help with education/employment/relocation. 2421 Pratt, Chicago 60645. (26)

GWM, 27, Brett Short, Box 30, 17-3/A, Pendleton, IN 46064 (26)

WM, 35, 6', 175, masculine, muscular and very athletic is seeking mature man, 36-55 for relationship. I am professionally employed, honest and non-promiscuous. You must be sincere, non-promiscuous and very masculine. Type of employment unimportant but I prefer a rugged, broad-shoulders type, 200 lbs. or more in weight. Beer gut okay. Box 88391, Indianapolis, IN 46208. (26)

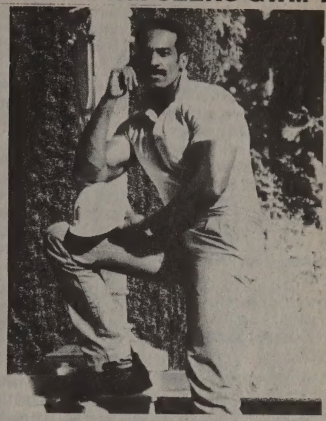
MEN'S PERSONALS WESTERN U.S.

Hot white bottom seeks hot black tops. I'm 27, goodlooking, with a hot butt that knows how to open up and out. I travel Oregon, California often. Rich V., 19924 Aurora Ave. #141, North Seattle, WA 98133. (26)

BGM seeks WGM bear leather. Photo. Occupant, Box 1128. Reno, Nevada 89504. (26)

GWM, 55, 5'8", 150, attractive Utah professional, seeks GBM or Latin athlete, non-smoker, non-drinker, non-drug

TIRED OF "GWM SEEKS GWM"ADS?



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user. If you fit this description and are seriously looking for a quality one-one relationship, call 801-364-2523. (32)

Northern California

Uncut man wanted. Hot blue-eyed blond HIV- man, 48, seeks uncut G/L guy wanting a rare honest loving man that will wine, dine and pump him. No bullshit. C.R., 751 Laurel Ave. #428, San Carlos, CA 94070. Must send picture/phone number. Otherwise, no reply. (26)

WM, slender, cute ass, mature, seeks hung BM. Boxholder A, Box 10436, Oakland, CA 94610. (26)

2 GWMs, 40 years old, seek heavy hung GBM for fun and safe sex. (Temecula area.) Reply to Occupant, Box 885, Winchester, CA 92396. (28)

Tall, trim white biker looking for black top with thick dick. Photo and phone to 930 Hayes #3, S.F., CA 94117. (27)

Cute GBM, 33, 150 lbs., 5'5", short but deep bottom seeks top masculine black bi or gay men for friendship and fun. Write Box 70571, Oakland, CA 94612. (26)

Goodlooking WM blows blacks. Travels. Box 3271, Daly City, CA 94015. (26)

White sucks, eats, drinks blacks. Bring beer. My place. 415-928-7736. (26)

Huge white hole eats dildos. Stretch it! Call hole. 415-585-8717. (28)

BGM looking for penpals. Emmette Mitchell, C-22649, L318, Box 2000, Vacaville, CA 95696-2000. (26)

GBM, 33, bottom, seeks top bi or GBM, discreet, bright. Box 70571, Oakland, CA 94612. (33)

San Diego Area

Beefy GWM stud seeking expert oral service. Call Larry, 619-324-8964. (28)

Palm Springs topman seeking playmates! Boxholder #3337, PS, CA 92263. (28)

European GM, 36, 5'6", 150 lbs., blond, blue, moustache, hairy, smoker, HIV+, healthy, intelligent and affectionate seeks friendship with mature, sincere black man 18+ to 50. Looks unimportant. BLK Mailbox #111. (26)

GWM, masculine, top man. Larry, Box 3337, Palm Springs, CA 92263. (28)

English GWM, 53, friends for correspondence or ? Desert, mountains, sun. Race, age, size immaterial. Photo with letter, please. G.J., Box 285, Adelanto, CA 92301. (26)

WM wants serious BM. Ted, 619-696-0980. (26)

Los Angeles Area

GBM, 60, 6', 175 lbs., interested in meeting GBM, 50 to 60. Have own transportation. Like bowling, some sports, going to very small parties. Do not like heavy drink or drugs. Prefer non-smoker. Like weekend trips and long distance travel. If sex, safe only. BLK Mailbox #109. (26)

Attractive BGM, 6'3", 215 lbs., with big juicy ass and thighs, you know the story, seeks black bi- or gay freaks, uh, tops, for hot and heavy sessions! Participants and voyeurs welcome. Rudy, Box 1684, L.A., CA 90078. (26)

BM seeks Asians, blacks and Latins with juicy butts or vaginas for good times. Call 213-465-8968. Serious callers only! (27)

Handsome black man, 35, 195#, well-built, who likes to workout with weights and jog on a daily basis, would like to meet honest, sincere person for friendship, black or white, who loves the outdoors and some sports. Rod, 213-733-1681. (27)

Bi cowboy, masculine, with tight lean smooth body and hot hard bubble butt (pussy ass), seeks big, muscular, Latins or bisexual GBM tops for safe rides. Sincere only. 213-438-1421. (26)

If you're a tall healthy GBM with a big cock, call Lee at 818-896-8890. This GL blond wants to please you. (26)

Commitment and values: B/M, 38, 5'11", 170, G/P, seeks an affectionate, tall, G/A white to black top man, 40-55, who lives 1-to-1, homelife, mountains and stability. Mel, Box 712427, L.A. 90071, 213-656-0258, ext. 22 (28)

Hot, sexy, intelligent freak! 25 year old 6'2", 170 lb. black brother, looking for someone who can work it! You: black/Puerto Rican, 21-30something, intelligent, goodlooking, tall, nice firm body, preferably uncut, who works in more ways than one! M.H., 213-296-2906(27)

Boxershorts, tattooed uncuts wanted by hunk. Box 39881, Los Angeles 90039-0881. (28)

Single Latin guy looking to meet someone honest and sincere. Attractive with a sense of humor. I'm normal and down to earth. You be too. Masculine types only. Call 818-890-0307. Keep trying. (26)

Cute blond bottom seeks giant buffed dominant men. 818-765-5132. (28)

Cruise mate wanted for R.S.V.P. French Canadian cruise. Me: super extra good-looking, 32 years, French Canadian, hung 9½x6½. Seek young man, same. 714-494-1114 (26)

Handsome, 41, GBM, professional, sexy, seeks young GBM or GWM, 22-28, for fun, hot times, romance, adventure and possible relationship. You should be attractive, well-built, intelligent, enjoy music, movies, dining out, romance, and long, slow, warm lovemaking in front of my fireplace. Photo/phone/letter a must. We've both been looking for each other. Now it's up to you. BLK Mailbox #114. (27)

Gay couple looking friends for fun. Box 19543. LAX 90019. (26)

Me: WM, 5'9", HIV+, hairy, 37. You: man of color, HIV+, versatile and sincere. Al, 213-665-1304. Thank you. (28)

WM, attractive, 31, 5'7", 135#, shoulder-length dark brown hair and eyes, gym-going, non-stereotypical, health-conscious, homebody, professional, independent, witty seeks similar white or black guy for uncomplicated pleasure. Photo/phone, descriptive letter to Jeff, c/o R.E., Box 3790, Beverly Hills, CA 90212. (26)

Oversexed, handsome, bisexual jock, worships foreskins. Box 4455, Terminal Annex, L.A. 90051-2455. Brother Ed. (26)

BBM, professional, seeks, TV/TS for ser relationship. Jim 213-876-7949. (28)

Sexy, white drag queen loves black dick (French/Greek). 415-461-4135. (28)

If your sex black tool is extra large (diameter and/or length) I challenge you to try me. I am 35 years old, Latino, 140 pounds, 5'7", bilingual. Letter and/or nude photo. Mr. V., Box 761326, Los Angeles, CA 90076. (31)

Trying again. Black male, 33 years old, attractive, looking for other males. Possible relationship. I'm 5'10", 150 lbs., a top wishing to find that special bottom. Must be 21-35 years old, attractive and black. No fats or fems. Call 213-469-5426. (26)

Let my tongue explore that hot black smooth, masculine body. Hungry, white, butch handsome male, 35, 175, 5'11" wants young very big, beefy, black, hung, straight-acting top dudes only. Black football player and construction worker types only. Check it out. Put my tongue to work. Box 46841, Los Angeles, CA 90046. (26)

GWM with a nice smile, a witty sense of humor and the boy next door charm and sexuality. Personable, hung and very goodlooking GBM, 6'2" and muscular, 198 lbs. yours for the asking. BLK Mailbox #112. (26)

Black male wanted to share home and life with. Me: Stable affectionate, white male, HIV neg., 50s, 6', 178 pounds. You: 30-45. Will 818-362-2022. (27)

Handsome, muscular GBM, financially independent. I enjoy polaying and watching sports, movies, dinners. Seek same for friendship, any race. Bottoms only. No games. Bob 818-798-4205(28)

White seeks black for friendship and more. GWM, 32, body-builder, seeks GBM, 27 to 40. Me: honest, energetic, intelligent, mature, passionate, loving, assertive but versatile, capable of compromise, professional, handsome, masculine, muscular, brown hair, blue eyes, 6'2", 195#, 8x5½", bubble-butt. You: similar man of excellent character, ready and capable of being an equal partner, 6'2" to 6'5", 9x6½+", dark and muscular and healthy. Call 619-322-6292. You won't be bored! (31)

Attractive and successful black writer seeks intelligent and articulate man of any race for travel, dating, romance. I am 30, 5'9", 140, swimmer. Call, leave message, 213-222-1115, or write Box 421145, Los Angeles, CA 90042. (29)

Black male, 35, 175 pounds, 5'8", bottom, wants to meet body builder for mutual workouts. 818-913-1575. Race not important. (30)

Skip this ad for graphic descriptions. Certainly not an S not M either. Just a mutual bonding kind of guy. Okay a few stat are only fair: GBM, 29, some say beautiful, working artist, financially independent, using this option for meeting new friends. I have a vague preference for Hispanic, white or European men around my age with more knowledge of the written word than Gold's Gym. BLK Mailbox #108. (27)

Sincere GWM seeks GBM for relationship. I'm 31, 5'10", 135 lbs., HIV neg., bottom, smooth, inteiigent and warm. You are 20-35, masculine, top, stable, professional and ready for a lover who is not into bars, smoke or head games. Box 91313, Long Beach, CA 90809. I can wait as long as it takes for the right man. (26)

Black dick seeks black bottoms/mouths. Box 191272, Los Angeles, 90019. (26)

Attractive, masculine, GBM looking for in-shape, muscular men to play racquetball or tennis with. Bobby 818-798-4205. (28)

BGM would like to meet BGM for relationship. Must be honest and into safer sex. Louis, 213-274-6272. (28)

Open casting call for GBM, 25-40, for romantic lead in on-going true-life sitcom/drama. Must be willing to play opposite GWM, 35. Interests include movies, theater, music, beaches and exploring L.A. nightlife. BLK Mailbox #105. (E)

Discreet professional black male seeks chubby, muscular, husky and body builder-type black guys with super, super big things and super, super big bubble butts for friendship. 213-933-3098. (26)

Seeking advice for L.A. relocation. Box 9452, Elizabeth, NJ 07202-9992. (28)

Hot, raunchy, white wants domination. Box 86651, L.A., CA 90086. (28)

White dad, 50, professional artist, seeks black son, any age. Must be chemical free, muscular, obedient and growth-oriented. Leave message with name, number and qualifications. 213-481-1360. (26)

Blond, 6'4", 200, seeks hung boyish-looking top. Don. 213-281-6138. (26)

Handsome football player, built, dude, hung long and thick 11 x 7½, seeks other hot hung for safe good times. Drake 213-734-2042. (27)

Men of Color: To me, cocksucking is almost a sacrament. Allow me to accommodate your dick, giving you the service you dream about. Put me in my sling, put on a condom and slide my ass over your dickhead, and up and down your shaft. GWM, 39, 5'10", 195#, beard/moustache. 818-792-6758. (26)

Attractive GBM, HIV+, healthy, 5'7", 34, and appealing hunk, warm, loving and extremely affectionate, seeking a dominant and masculine GBM (fully equipped) with the same qualities. Muscles not important, height above 6'2" a+ (but not required). No queens, rude sissies and bar flies should dial my number. I'm seeking a serious 1-1 friendship/relationship. If you enjoy lots of affection, attention, beach, movies, exercise and romantic nights, call Jay 213-840-6398, leave your name and phone and I'll call you back. (26)

Hot blond butt for 21-30. Box 75441, L.A. 90075. (26)

GBM, 6', 200 lbs., 40, healthy HIV+, seeks other husky stocky versatile, masculine men for friendship and sex. 1064 Myra #141, Los Angeles, CA 90029(26)

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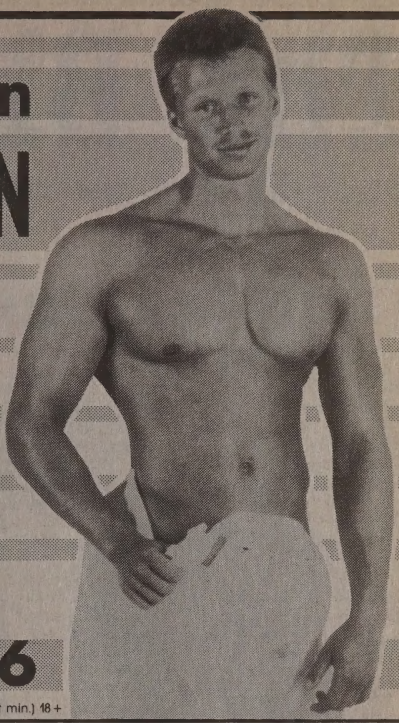

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January 1991

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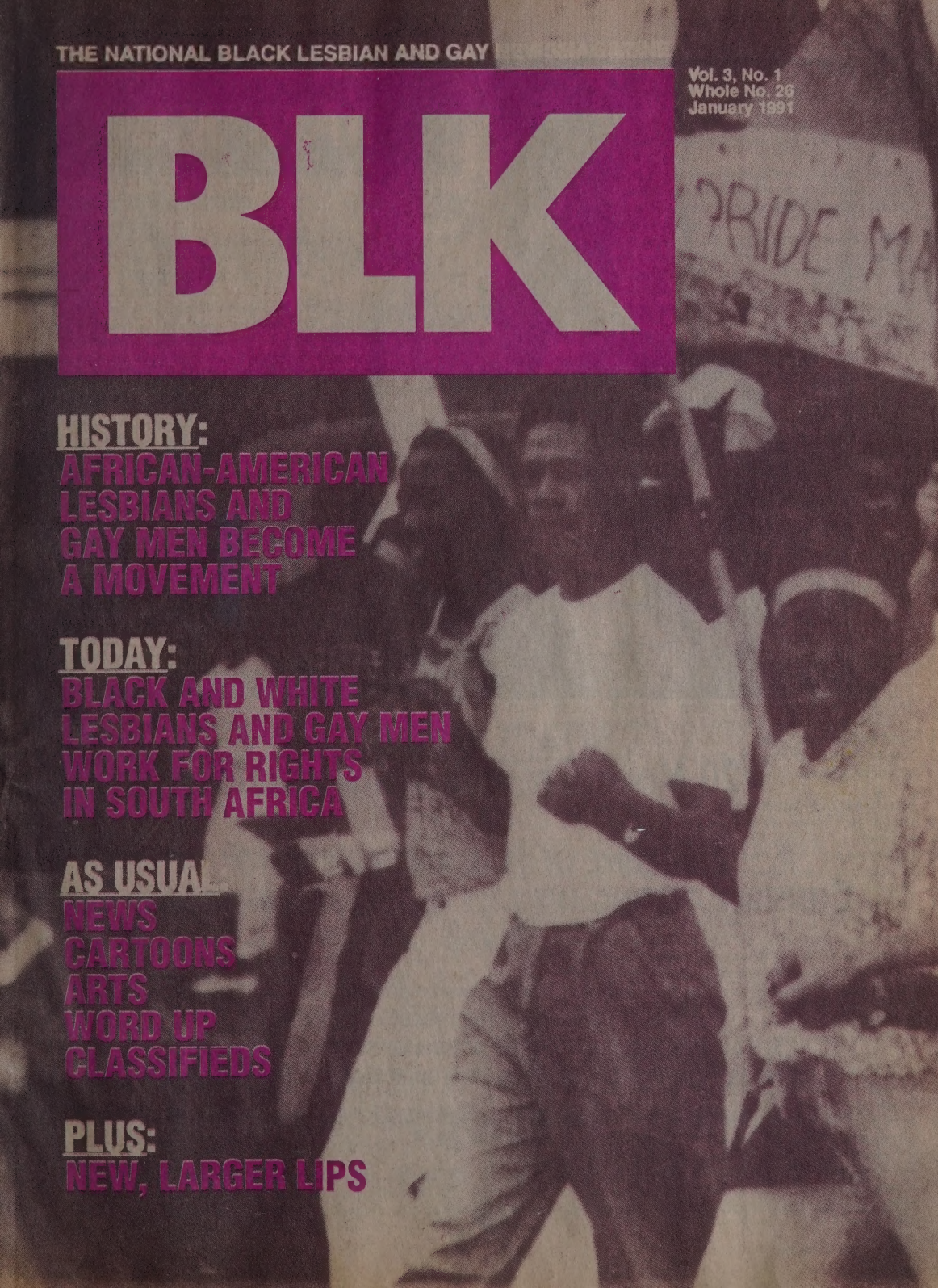

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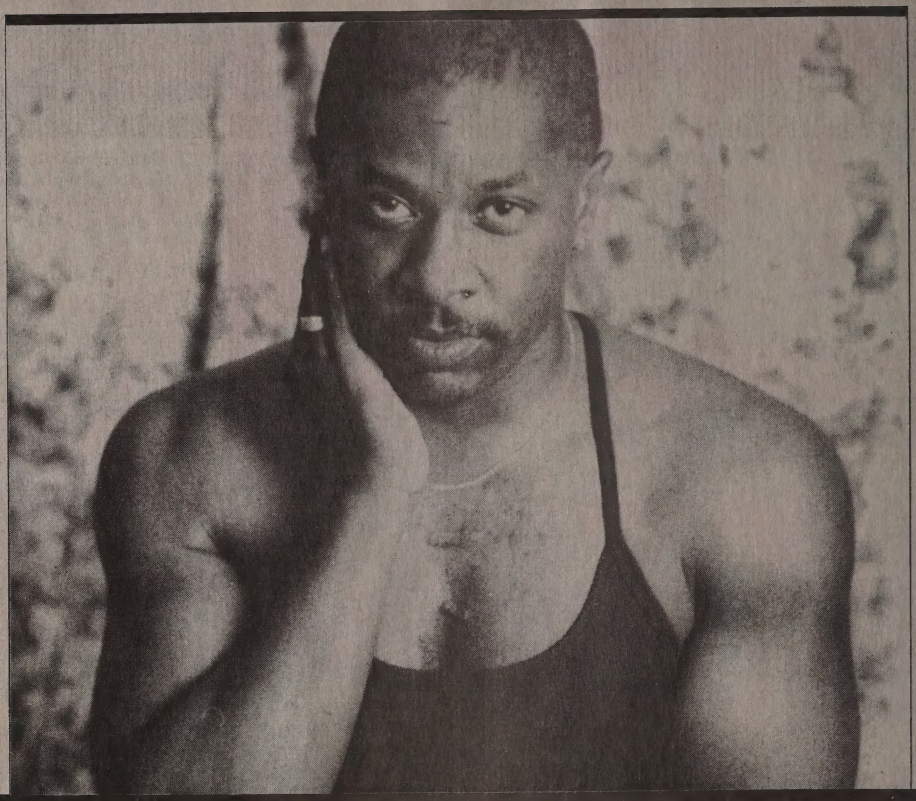

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BLK MAIL

Family and Friends

Dear Editor:

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank BLK magazine and Mark Haile for featuring me and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Families Project ["All in the Family," BLK, December 1990].

The issue of family protection for lesbians and men of color grows larger every day. How many of our relationships have been doubly devastated—first by the AIDS virus, and then by the discovery that our unions have no weight in law or society? How many of us have lost custody of our children, lost support of family, friends and church because of our sexual orientation?

Black gay media play such a tremendous role informing and mobilizing our community around the many issues and problems we face in our lives every day. It is vitally important that publications such as BLK be supported by all of us, and applauded for the fine work it does.

I did, however, wish to make one correction and one comment on the article. first, the correction. I was not part of a United Nations monitoring team to South Africa. What I did say was that in 1985, I relocated to New York City to work on a special project with the African National Congress Observer Mission to the United Nations.

Secondly, while I am flattered to be characterized as "the Washington Black lesbian activist out of the closet and out in the field...," I'm afraid I can't support the supposition. There are many lesbian activists of color in Washington who struggle daily to help secure the rights of all people. Mine is a high profile job. That's the only thing that separates me from the majority of my sisters in this movement.

Each of us brings special gifts to this struggle for social justice in which we are now engaged. Hopefully, all of us, as people of color, bring a desire to see the world as it should be and a vow to make it so.

Again, thank you BLK for your kind words and your great work.

Ivy Young
Director
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Families Project
Washington, D.C.

Black Through White Eyes

Dear Editor:

One of the ways that white men who, like myself, profess to love black men have gotten ourselves in a lot of hot water (and boy do those soap suds burn when they get in your eyes!!) is in how we identify with black gay men. No matter how much I believe I would make-a good person of color, I won't get that opportunity in this lifetime, will I? Then again, I'm hardly a stalwart of the "predominantly white gay and lesbian movement" either.

M. Corrine Mackey's commentary ["Black Identity and White Expectations," BLK, December 1990] got me thinking, got me reflecting, along the lines of how well he skewered some of my own *faux pas*, and how off-base this particular opinionated person found his views on other points. Thank you.

For years I've wondered over my own emotional life when my eyes would mist over, say, at a replaying of some Martin Luther King, Jr. speech or over the strident sermons of candidate Jesse Jackson. Oh, how my own heartache echoed those preachers' diapasons!! The whole exultation of victimage got me in my guts good!

Well, I tired of that. It's all about power isn't it? I began to feel that these folks were just playing to the crowd, slipping the wool over our eyes.

White expectations...black expectations, what audience to play to? Well, if you can get comfortable with such an outer-directed formulation of self-acceptance and self-affirmation, be my guest. I for one cannot.

I know a little bit about being forced to wear masks. Mine haven't been black masks, but mine have been gay masks, the masks of a person of—shall we say—limited income, and the mask of a self-acknowledged HIV+ person. Lovely, I assure you. So other people in their multiple capacities often prove inadequate at identifying me just right. So frigging what?? What's one to expect of others? We each only have so much time to inform ourselves of our world and its occupants, and nobody gets it completely right. Some people are just profoundly ignorant.

Less often now do I hold my likes and dislikes up to the scales of others for them to judge and weigh and assess. "Judge for yourself" is becoming my watchword.

Thanks again for the news, features, and opinion pieces your publication brings my way. They enrich my life.

John Dick
Los Angeles, Calif.

Dear Editor:

I have read your essay "Black Identity and White Expectations." Your writings confirm my findings, that the majority (99 percent) of your group—for you are not really a race after centuries of intimate mixing with your (mostly) Caucasian neighbors—has still not been able to overcome your genetic "African" handicap. That is a very unfortunate situation, which proves again the inferiority of your gene-composition, haunting you since the beginning of time. While the Caucasians and the Orientals ascended in their development from their common stone-age background to the present civilization, your group still lives and thinks in stone-age-style.

Thanks to the efforts of the Caucasians, you have been blessed with the advantages of modern civilization—but your minds and souls still linger in the primitivity of your stone-age-mentality.

Allow me, to remind you on your "proud" heritage: Negro-Africa is the most uncivilized place on earth, with a very primitive "culture" (if you want the garbage produced to dignify with the name culture!). Negro-Africa has proven it's inability to exist without Caucasian supervision and massive support from Caucasian countries. Famine, Malnutrition, Sickness, Illiteracy, Bankruptcy, Corruption, Cruelty, Tribal Warfare (among your beloved "brothers"!) and Dictatorships are everywhere in the—from the "horrible white colonialism" liberated—African "states." Negro-Africa regressed immediately to it's stone-age "roots" after the "white oppressors" had left. And—you see—the same has happened here in the United States since the Caucasians allowed you "civil rights" —the unfortunate fact being, that most of you still were not civilized to appreciate this gift! You know about the consequences: Your ghettos—which were just poor 1964—are now the killing-fields for your "brethren," unsafe for all of your people. You have not only "Equal Rights" but have received preferential treatment with "Affirmative Action" etc. for 25 years and you are still on the bottom of our society! What does that fact indicate? You must have inferior genes—for anybody with just average intelligence would have used the (from the Caucasian community offered and paid for) advantages to improve his lifestyle! No, your "group" has constantly been sliding backward into the stone-age, missing the op-

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portunities for improvement! The *first* thing your primitive brethren could think of were riots, looting, arson and murder in good "African-roots-fashion"! Remember Watts (which has still not recovered) and all the other riot-stricken places your savage "brethren" left in the wake of their "fight for Niggerism" ? Like in Negro-Africa, they destroyed their own quarters, got their own people killed, and created more and lasting (Bronx, Brooklyn) miserable living-conditions for "their people"!

Now you may be able to comprehend, why your Caucasian friends feel the way you describe it so eloquently: "The more visibly angry, the more out of control(!) blacks appear, the less acceptable they may be to whites." What do you expect: The civilized and cultured Caucasians—to who you owe everything concerning your high living standard—shall just roll over and play dead, (when your savage brethren threaten their culture and civilization) while keeping on paying for your survival in a civilized western world?

Your "group" in it's arrogant stupidity (see the agitators Sharpton,Jackson and Farrakhan) obviously intends in it's hatred to kill the (Caucasian) goose which lays the golden eggs for their survival! ..... and you think for one moment, the Caucasians will stand for it? Yes, the Caucasian have seen the (not by Negroes financed!) film by Spike Lee: *Do the Right Thing* which gave many of them a good insight into the rotten mentality of your brethren—and they have learned from it. As they learn about your brethren every day from "Representatives of your group" like the great Negro composer and lyricist Luther(!) Campbell, the rather primitive *Arsenio Hall Show* with it's racial slants and the reports about your great politicians like the doper Marion Barry! Not to mention the daily horror-stories about Negro-murderers, Negro-rapists, and all the other Negro-criminals, who terrorize all decent citizens in our country—but especially in predominantly Negro-populated cities, like Washington D.C. (murder-capital), Detroit, Atlanta, etc.

Yes, the Caucasians are learning from you, that the extension of a Caucasian-created bill of rights to uncivilized savages as "your brethren" was a mistake and the correction of it will definitely lead to the—by you predicted—complete alienation. The difference being, that YOU are the cause of it, not the Caucasians who wanted to share their advanced civilization and culture with you, but were rejected in those efforts by your stone-age primitivity, which appears unable to learn from experience (which is a typical trademark of sociopaths and fits a lot of "your people"!).

Remember, the Eurocentric foundation of our country is the only reason for it's attractiveness to all those 3rd and 4th World people, who flood our borders! They want to get away from their colored brethren and all the roots to their miserable homelands and want to share the benefits of Caucasian culture and civilization—but, please feel free to leave and to take all your malcontents with you back to wherever you came from!

Fred Berg
Miami, Fla.

M. Corrine Mackey replies: Ummm. Not much that's original, or even thoughtful, here. I'll give it a 62. It's got some kind of a beat, but you sho can't dance to it.

If you wish to have a letter considered for publication, address it to BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, California 90083-0912. You may also send letters by fax, 24-hours, seven days a week: 213-410-9250. Keep your letter brief, and be sure to include your full name, address and telephone number for verification. Names will be withheld from publication on request. Letters may be edited for purposes of space or clarity.

Saturday • February 9, 1991

•PROGRAM 1 •2 PM to 4 PM •$10 •A

Theatre

"A SONG FOR MY BROTHERS.. TICK..TICK..TICK"

writer-director E. Lloyd Napier

A Song For My Brothers..Tick..Tick..Tick is a riveting and powerful drama. Celebrating the lives of men, women and children who have been challenged and changed forever by the diagnosis of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. AIDS. Some are living. Some are already gone.

Poetry Performance

Readings *by Adele Renault*

One of the strongest new voices on the LA poetry scene – where sexuality is met head on.

Dance • World Premiere

"CHILDREN OF THE NIGHT"

director-choreographer Stephen Semien

Children Of The Night is a fusion of modern jazz dance linked by acappella vocals and poetry. The content of this choreopoem will deal with the cliches, conflicts, joys, victories and sorrows of living in, or on the edge of, Gay America in the 1990's. *Children Of The Night* is dedicated to Mr. Semien's brother, Godfather and friends deceased of AIDS.

Performance Piece

"YUH BETTAH BELIEVE IT"

writer-director E. Lloyd Napier

Yuh Bettah Believe It is a potpourri of socio-political poetry dealing with contemporary issues affecting our society.

•PROGRAM 2 •6 PM* to 8 PM •$15 •A

**Reception begins at 4PM*

Art Exhibit & Videos

Dance

"CHILDREN OF THE NIGHT"

Encore performance of afternoon premiere

Performance Piece

"TRI-SECTIONS"

by Ayofemi Stowe Folayan

Tri-Sections is a celebration of the richness of Folayan's experience as a Black Lesbian with disabilities. It has a dynamic score composed and performed by Debbie Lawrence, also a Black Lesbian woman who is blind.

Theatre • World Premiere

"SAXOPHONE ME, BABY"

playwright Angela Counts
director Gregory Eugene Travis

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Saturday • February 9, 1991

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Sunday • February 10, 1991

•4 PM to 6 PM •$5 •SITE A

Champagne Reception

Art Exhibit & Videos

•PROGRAM 3 •6 PM to 8 PM •$10 •A

Entertainment

Black History & Awards Program

The Black History & Awards Program will recognize those persons who have made significant contributions to the African American Gay and Lesbian Community. Deserving individuals will be presented the **Roger V. Pamplin Community Service Award** and the **Alliance Award for Outstanding Cultural Achievement**. The program will include: a skit written by ***Stanley Bennett Clay;*** dancer ***Broderick Wilson;*** vocalist ***Tianna Marquez;*** the ***Voices Of Unity*** choir; other special musical performances and the introduction of the African American Gay & Lesbian National Anthem. The evening promises to be entertaining as well as informative.

Monday • February 11, 1991

•PROGRAM 4 •6:30 PM to 8 PM •$7 •B

Videos

"TINY & RUBY: HELL DIVIN' WOMEN"

by Greta Schiller and Andrea Weiss

Tiny & Ruby is an intimate portrait of the legendary jazz trumpeter Tiny Davis, billed as the "female Louis Armstrong" in the 1940's, and her lover and partner for over 40 years, drummer Ruby Lucas (a.k.a. Renee Phelan). Paying tribute to these two extraordinary women, the film weaves together music, compelling archival material, live performances and an evocative narrative by poet Cheryl Clark.

"WOMEN IN LOVE"

by Sylvia Rhue

Women In Love" by Sylvia Rhue, Ph.D., is an examination of relationships among Black Gay Women. Six women talk about coming out, Lesbian identity, parents, children, friends and how they deal with the outer world. Humor is combined with information for a glimpse into a world too rarely seen.

•PROGRAM 5 •8:30 PM to 10 PM •$7 •B

Videos

"AFFIRMATIONS"

by Marlon Riggs

Divided loyalties, and double prejudice, are the conditions against which Black Gay Men must define their identities and articulate their dreams.

"TONGUES UNTIED"

by Marlon Riggs

Back again, this popular video is an explosive collaboration between Emmy Award-winning director Marlon Riggs and poet Essex Hemphill. This popular exploration of Black Gay life confronts the silence of pain of the unacknowledged and tongue-tied.

Tuesday • February 12, 1991

•6:30 PM to 8 PM •FREE TO ALL •SITE B

Panel Discussion

with Stanley Bennett Clay, Angela Counts, Ayofemi Stowe Folayan, Sylvia Rhue, E. Lloyd Napier, Stephen Semien, Gregory Eugene Travis & Ali Wadud

---

•PROGRAM 6 •8:30 PM to 10 PM •$5 •B

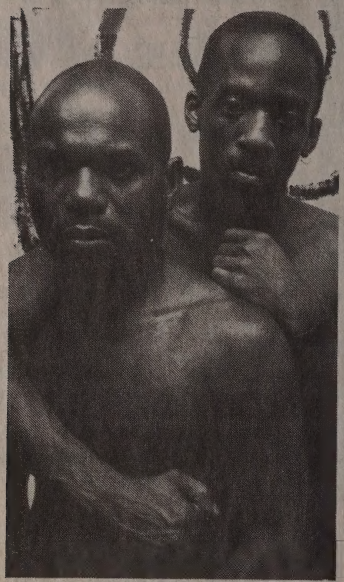
Video

"PARIS IS BURNING"

by Jennie Livingston

This documentary powerfully captures New York's "voguing" trend. They call themselves the Children, Gay Blacks and Latins who on the street or in the clubs join the House Of Channel, The House Of Saint Laurent, or the House Of Ninja, etc. The Children live in two realms: the world of struggling and the world of "Realness".

MARLON RIGGS



National Emmy Award-winning Producer-Director-Writer of the prize-winning documentary ETHNIC NOTIONS, he is a recipient of awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the California Council for the Humanities. In addition to a National Emmy Award, ETHNIC NOTIONS has received top honors in such media showcases as the San Francisco International Film Festival and American Film and Video Festival.

FIVE DOLLAR ADMISSION

IN PERSON: The award winning producer and director of the internationally acclaimed experimental video documentary TONGUES UNTIED will be honored by the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum with the Black Quill Award in memory of James Baldwin. The award will be presented on Sunday, February 17 at 8:00 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Los Angeles, 711 South Hope Street, Los Angeles, California.

RETROSPECTIVE: Excerpts from Mr. Riggs earlier works will be shown, including: LONG TRAIN RUNNING: THE STORY OF THE OAKLAND BLUES, CHANGING IMAGES: MIRRORS OF LIFE, MOLDS OF REALITY, VISIONS TOWARD TOMORROW: IDA LOUISE JACKSON, TONGUES UNTIED and AFFIRMATIONS.

WORLD PREMIERE: The evening will conclude with a showing of Marlon Riggs' latest work, ANTHEM, an eight-minute experimental video, that openly politicizes the erotic, specifically, the homoeroticism of African-American men. Its images are sensuous, sexual, defiant; its words intend to provoke. In an era of pervasive anti-Gay, anti-Black backlash, of hysterical cultural repression, ANTHEM reasserts our "self-evident right" to life and liberty; it provocatively contests narrow essentialist notions of race, manhood, and freedom advanced by ideologues in the White Right as well as the Black Left. The film features the writings of Essex Hemphill, Donald Woods, Colin Robinson, Reggie Jackson and Steve Langley.

Clauras and Wendies

Black and white and colored women and men together in South Africa

By Garry Wotherspoon and Clive Faro

"Oh, I never go to those so-called gay places, man. They's too full of wendies for a claura to feel OK. You know most wot this place is like, man. I jus go to our own places to jol and you can always pick out some guy to go with. And sometimes I come here to the gardens and hang out. But you gotta be careful of the priscillas, man. There's always a priscilla hangin' 'round."

With these words the young black guy finished his assessment of the gay scene in Cape Town and proceeded to quiz us as to what it was really like to live as gay men overseas. In his world, whites, or "wendies," had little time for coloreds, or "clauras," and there was little point in pursuing any contact with white gay men. Standing in the vaguely cruisy byways of the Cape Town city gardens it was easy to see what he meant. There were only a handful of black men cruising, most of whom knew each other and were having long chats while waiting for the next passerby. Their caution with each newcomer underlined the threat posed by the police, known as "priscillas." Many had tales to tell of goodlooking undercover cops on the prowl for an arrest.

COVER STORY

To be young black and gay in South Africa is not easy, and the edge in his voice tells us exactly what he thinks of the handful of gay bars and discos in town. Just last year, for instance, there were a series of articles in the South African gay monthly, *Exit*, about the discriminatory door policy of one of Cape Town's most well-known gay bars, the Oasis. Apparently a capricious doorman—and a vague notion of club membership—succeeded in preventing a number of black gay men from entering the club. But that young man's words portended more. His life has little to do with the bar scene; even if he could afford it, even if he did get through the door, he would have been an unwelcome guest.

In South Africa there are severe legal restrictions against lesbians and gay men. Under common law all homosexual acts, whether in private or not, or even between consenting adults, are illegal. Between 1971 and 1981 alone, charges were brought against more than 750 people. Of these, 448 ended in convictions. And the steady stream of prosecutions are expected to continue. Although specific laws pertaining to lesbians have been abrogated by disuse, there are a range of other laws which affect the lives of lesbians and gay men alike. For example, "public indecency" is defined in South African law as any act which outrages the public's sense of decency or tends to deprave the morals of others. The interpretation of this tautologous provision lies in the hands of individual presiding judges or magistrates. The cases to which this measure has been applied have been wide and varied.

Those who live and love across South Africa's infamous color bar face an array of other legal obstacles, including, for example, the Immorality Act and the Group Areas Act. Sweeping police powers, which in recent times have been greatly extended through the various states of emergency, make gay people especially vulnerable, even in the privacy of their homes. Periodically there have also been attempts to purge sections of the public service and the armed forces of lesbians and gay men. In April 1983, for example, nearly 60 civil servants were fired for being lesbian or gay. Meanwhile the notoriously conservative army has regularly used virulently anti-gay smear tactics against its critics.

Despite these legal restrictions and a repressive moralistic climate, it has been gratifying to witness the vitality and the diversity of the lesbian and gay communities which have emerged in South Africa. There are, for instance, more than 50 organizations which openly identify themselves as lesbian or gay. While the majority of these groups are concentrated in the larger metropolitan areas of Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban and Pretoria, they are spread throughout the country. They range from social groups and athletic teams, religious groups and counseling services, to more narrowly-defined political organizations. Although some, like the gay Music Appreciation Group, have come and gone, others have sprung up. In recent years, too, the various counseling services have expanded their focus to include AIDS support work. Late last year the first Body Positive group was founded in Cape Town. Several cities boast gay centers, which vary in size and function, but broadly serve as places for meetings and as the bases for several of the telephone information and counseling services. And last year Gay Pride was celebrated with Africa's historic first lesbian and gay pride march on Oct. 13 in Johannesburg.

Set on a hill overlooking the heart of Johannesburg, Hillbrow has probably the largest concentration of gay businesses and organizations in the country. Since before the war, the area was known as slightly bohemian. In its diversity, the area resembles New York's Greenwich Village. In recent years, the hilltop enclave which is covered with apartments, has become the closest thing in South Africa to a fully desegregated suburb. It is also one of the few places where the government has turned a blind eye to the actions of those who contravene the Group Areas Act (which regulates where various racial groups can live). Indeed, in one recent case, a racially mixed couple was simply told by police to leave the suburb in which they had been living and to move to either Hillbrow or Soweto.

Concentrated in Hillbrow and fanning out into the city below are a diverse range of commercial gay establishments.

These include restaurants, cafes, clubs, bars and even saunas. Some places, like Mrs. Henderson's and the Dungeon Club—both bars—have been open for a number of years and have even become fairly well-known even in non-gay circles. Others are more recent additions to the gay scene and reflect the influence of gay ghettos abroad.

South Africa's only regularly published lesbian and gay periodical is the free monthly newspaper, *Exit,* now produced in Johannesburg by Gerry Davidson, who recently purchased it from David Moolman. With the demise of his previous paper, *Link/Skakel,* Moolman had set up *Exit* with his own money, and it is due largely to his conviction and personal effort that the paper has become an established part of gay life in South Africa. Today it has a print run of 17,000. Copies are sent to all major libraries; even 28 MPs subscribe to it.

Cape Town, while having the reputation of being a far more relaxed and liberal city, has a smaller commercial gay scene than Johannesburg. A couple of bars there have been operating as gay for a number of years. Suburbs like Sea Point, Gardens and Observatory have high concentrations of lesbians and gay men living there, and are reasonably (but not always) relaxed about racially mixed households. Cape Town also apparently has a strong lesbian network, much of which operates through the women's movement, and which, as one commentator noted, is "very cruisy."

Nestled at the foot of Table Mountain, the city is deservedly famous for its natural beauty. Cape Town also has its fair share of beaches, many of which are secluded and attract an interesting mix of users. One is Sandy Bay, hidden behind the mountain and notorious as an area for nudist activities. Regular police raids notwithstanding, the beach has continued to attract large numbers of people, many of them lesbians and gay men. The atmosphere of the place is pleasantly communal and, on the periphery, cruisy.

An even more unusual spot is Graaf's Pool. Set on the rocks in the middle of Sea Point, this tidal pool is a men-only bathing area. Surrounded by a wall about four feet high, it is probably the only officially sanctioned nude sunbathing area in the whole of South Africa. Predictably spectators flock, and it is astonishing to see how many manage to wedge themselves into the 40 by 20 foot space and still maintain beach decorum and etiquette. At night the whole area is mercilessly spotlit, but the hardy are not deterred and it is vaguely surreal to be walking along the promenade and see in the distance, sticking up above the wall, only the heads of the nocturnal cruisers.

While the bar scene in Cape Town may be small, the city does have a strong gay political presence. Over the last ten years it has been the home to a handful of groups: a periodically active student group at the University of Cape Town (GALA), the first branch of the Gay Association of South Africa (GASA 6010) and the Organization of Lesbian and Gay Activists (OLGA). As in many gay groups, there is often overlapping membership and there is a basic core of individuals who have been active in some or all of the groups over time. OLGA, the most recent of these organizations, locates itself firmly within the broader democratic movement.

GASA 6010, by contrast, has moved away from overt political activity and is now mainly concerned with providing a counseling and support service for lesbians and gay men. A mixed volunteer and professional organization, GASA provides the only 24-hour service of this nature on the African continent. Increasingly the service has come to deal with AIDS-related counseling and provide safe sex information. Most of the 50 or so volunteers who make up the organization and its clientele are predominantly white and male.

This pattern seemed to recur again and again in the organizations we contacted, and it became increasingly clear that the gay communities in South Africa reflect quite closely the divisions of the wider society. Just listening and talking to some of the men at Graaf's Pool graphically demonstrated the differences between the everyday lives of black and white gay men. Many of the white guys were concerned with the declining value of the rand, their prospects in the South Africa of the future, possibilities for immigration and the best ways of getting money out of the country. The few black men there seemed more concerned with how to study in overcrowded homes, how to raise money for education and what jobs—if any—they might be able to get. These are not unrealistic concerns in a country where out of a population of four million whites over 140,000 have attended university, while the 20 million blacks have managed to gain only 25,000 places. Whites hold approximately 90 percent of all professional and managerial positions, while some 85 percent of those classified as laborers are black. The economic dimension to apartheid is inescapable.

Gay groups—and the gay communities in general—reflect these social realities. Predominantly white groups are generally better funded and better organized. Predominantly black groups, when they exist at all, barely manage to survive. For a number of years the African Gay Association (AGA) functioned primarily as a social club for black lesbians and gay men in the Cape Town suburbs of Guguletu and Lanaga. At its peak the group had 60 members; today the group is defunct.

According to some black gay men, one of the greatest needs in the townships is for more social space for lesbians and gay men to meet. Many gay men who live in the black townships are, in fact, married and have families, and simply cannot take up the lifestyles of their more affluent, single, white counterparts in the cities. These concerns have been central to two predominantly black organizations which have been established in the last few years: the now defunct Rand Gay Organization (RGO), and the more recent Gay and Lesbian Organization of the Witwatersrand (GLOW). According to Linda Ngcobo, general secretary of GLOW, one of the group's highest priorities is to secure a social meeting space in Soweto. A number of group meetings have already taken place at the Glowbar, a "bar" set in a private home. (For a short time, Glowbar ventured out of its residential setting into commercial quarters. It has since become residential again.) Eventually, GLOW wants to set up a community center where various groups can meet. Organizers also want desperately to provide counseling services. They already have started an employment agency and have plans to set up a housing bureau. This seems a far cry from the gala events of last year's Gay Pride Week.

The problem of AIDS within South Africa's black communities has hardly been addressed. Siphiwe "Alfred" Machela, a medical doctor and prominent member of RGO, worked long and hard to establish AIDS health care and information programs in the townships. The resulting Township AIDS Project, begun as a part of GLOW and now its own organization, will employ a gay person to develop educational materials in the different languages spoken by black South Africans. (Machela has since left South Africa.) Assistance from abroad, particularly Norway, Canada and the International Lesbian and Gay Association, made this possible.

As one would expect in such a society, there are strong divisions within the gay communities in South Africa about the direction gay political activism should take. Most of the smaller progressive groups are set within the parameters of

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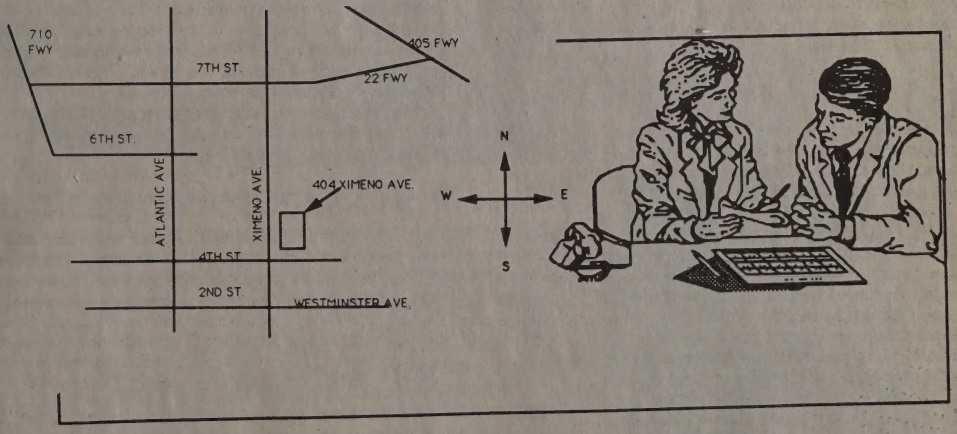

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comprehensive left wing politics. As Julia Nicol and Sheila Lapinsky, two founding members of OLGA, have emphasized, they are working towards a democratic South Africa by opposing all forms of oppression: racism, economic exploitation and sexism as well as discrimination against lesbians and gay men.

But not all gay activists take this approach. During his reign as *Exit* editor, Moolman generally avoided involving the paper in issues, particularly "race issues" which he saw as not having a specific bearing on being gay. His reply to criticism was that "there are umpteen other newspapers fighting the race issue...but nobody else fights the gay issue." He also suggested that by avoiding these issues there was less chance of drawing the wrath of the government emergency powers against *Exit*. This could lead to the closing of the paper, he said, depriving South Africa of its only gay mouthpiece.

While few disapproved of Moolman's general aim—"to allow gay people to be natural and live in dignity and pride and with self respect"—many who felt his vision of achieving this separate from other major issues that confront South African society was somewhat naïve. Moolman's critics argued that it was crucial to locate the struggle of gay people in a broader political context, not only as a fight for basic democracy but also to increase the awareness of those already inside the democratic movement of the importance of gay rights. Under Davidson's direction, *Exit* has become considerably more progressive.

While there had been some anti-gay sentiments expressed by parts of the democratic movement, a recent official statement by the African National Congress (ANC) has suggested that in post-revolutionary South Africa anti-gay discrimination would not be tolerated: "ANC policy towards gays and lesbians, and towards other groups in South Africa which are discriminated against, has to be the same because it is an issue of principle enshrined in our Freedom Charter. The *raison d'être* of the ANC's existence is to fight discrimination, and deprivation of gays and lesbians cannot be excluded from that process."

The issuing of such an unequivocal statement by what many regard as the future government of South Africa has also had other benefits. As Lapinsky notes: "Many of the anti-apartheid groups have become less homophobic. They are increasingly inclined to accept their gay members and support gay rights as part of a free South Africa. In turn, this is radicalizing the lesbian and gay community and drawing more lesbians and gays into the liberation struggle."

One result of this activity has been the incorporation of an anti-discrimination plank in the proposed Bill or Rights for a New South Africa. Article 7, paragraph 2 reads, "Discrimination on the grounds of gender, single parenthood, legitimacy of birth or sexual orientation shall be unlawful." This section of the New Constitution, to take effect when South Africa becomes a free state, will move that nation from one of the most repressive regimes in the world to one of the handful to actually afford equal protection to lesbians and gay men under the law. This came about because of intense lobbying efforts by OLGA. Significantly, the group has become accepted as a member of the United Democratic Front, South Africa's consortium of anti-apartheid organizations, representing over 600 groups with more than one million members.

Lesbians and gay men have made, and continue to make, important contributions to the democratic movement at all levels. For many progressive lesbians, the focus of their work against apartheid is the host of women's groups—many of them feminist- -which exist in South Africa. Even the Black Sash, an established and highly respected liberal women's organization, has acknowledged the contribution lesbians have made.

And it appears that openly gay people are increasingly coming to prominence in the anti-apartheid movement. Lapinsky, for example, was subject to a five-year government banning order in the mid-70s because of her political activities as general secretary of the National Union of South African Students. A more recent case which has drawn international attention is that of Ivan Toms. A medical doctor who worked in the poor black squatter camps of Crossroads in 1988, and—until it was effectively banned—was vice-chairman of the End Conscription Campaign (ECC), Toms last year refused to serve any more time in the South African army. Because of his stand he became involved in a very public battle with the government. A politically astute organization with strong grassroots support, the ECC tapped directly into the misgivings felt by many in the white community regarding conscription and the role of the South African army. For its efforts, ECC has felt the government's wrath. In one swoop alone in 1986 the government raided 93 of its members' homes and detained more than 60. Toms himself went to jail for nine months.

Throughout his confrontation with the government Toms made no attempt to hide the fact that he was gay. Since he also happened to be a Christian and a member of the Anglican Church, it is interesting to note the very public support he has received from prominent church leader, including Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Rev. Allan Boesak and Rabbi Selwyn Franklin. Toms faces further jail terms if he is unsuccessful in his appeal against the South African government. Still, his commitment is unwavering: "...South Africa is in a state of civil war and we have to take sides. I believe that the side of justice and truth is the side of the poor and oppressed in our country...I am committed to South Africa and believe that the truly patriotic action for me is to go to prison rather than deny my faith and my beliefs."

Likewise the name of Tseko Simon Nkoli has achieved some international prominence. As one of a group charged in the Delmas Treason Trial [BLK, "Simon Nkoli," August 1989], Nkoli faced the death penalty before he was eventually acquitted. He too has been involved in a broad range of protests against the government going back many years, and had been charged with, among other things, furthering the aims of the then outlawed ANC, inciting people to subversion, terrorism and murder.

Since his acquittal, Nkoli set up GLOW, work that he firmly locates within the broader political movement: "The struggle for lesbian and gay rights is an inseparable part of the struggle for the human rights of all South Africans." Or, as Toms puts it: "You cannot choose which oppression you fight...racism, sexism, homophobia are all bound together."

The abiding impression created by people like Lapinsky, Machela, Toms and Nkoli is of deep conviction and commitment in the face of great odds. Many of them have been, and continue to live, under police surveillance of one sort or another, and there is the constant threat of detention—indefinite detention. In addition, they have to contend with petty annoyances like slashed tires and mysterious phone calls plus more significant affronts like public smear campaigns and death threats. But they stand firm in their resolve, as openly gay men and women, to speak out and to work toward a truly democratic South Africa.

In an editorial celebrating the historic gay pride march, Davidson wrote, "This year we can congratulate ourselves on the gains the gay community has made in both pride and visibility...Farewell to 1990 with its joys and pains and hail 1991. What will it bring? What it brings will be influenced by what we as lesbians and gay men contribute to our fight for equal rights for ourselves and others."

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Becoming a Movement

The Growth of Group Consciousness in Black Gay Men and Lesbian Women

By Rodney Christopher

The sociopolitical movement of African-American gay men is largely a result of historical change in American society regarding the questions of race, gender and sexual orientation. Unlike white gays and lesbians who began organizing politically in the U.S. in the 1950s, black gay men and lesbian women could not consider their sexual orientation to be a part of their personal and political identity, and more importantly they could not recognize the importance of organizing on both their race and sexual orientation, until African-Americans had gained the legislative rights and economic opportunities won because of the Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s. After that time, it was the effort and oversights of the gay rights movement and the women's movement that demonstrated the importance of organizing African-American lesbian women and gay men.

HISTORY

Racism is extremely pervasive. Although slavery ended officially in 1863, for the next century, "Jim Crow" laws and practice legitimized the separation of public accommodations and communities along racial lines in the South. The North was not extremely different. There African-Americans were not allowed to live in many places because of racism, instead forming what are now called inner-cities or rural pockets. The result of such rigid segregation can be seen by looking at the current economic position and health status of African-Americans. According to the Bureau of the Census, in 1986 33.5 percent of African-American families earned less than $12,500 compared to only 14.7 percent of white families. As for life expectancy, a black child born in Cuba, the per capita income of which is approximately 10 percent of that of the U.S., will live longer, and has a better chance of reaching the age of five, than a black child born within a fifty mile radius of the White House.

Because race has been such a huge determining factor of one's life chances, colored or Negro or black has been, for most African-Americans, the most important factor in the shaping of our identity as human beings. The overwhelming historical significance of race, then, has made it virtually impossible for the large part of the community of black gay men and black lesbian women to consider their sexuality as integral to their identity, especially on a political—that is, public—level. They have had to see their sexual orientation as private and secondary.

Being homosexual, regardless of race, is a taboo in a great many parts of the world. (The terms gay and lesbian themselves are political and were not used frequently before the late 1960s. Prior to this, the common term was homosexual.) There have been, and still are, very strict anti-sodomy laws on the books in many states and countries, and the anti-homosexual influence in the Bible, with story of Sodom and Gomorrah and several lines in the book of Leviticus, has greatly affected the codes of living in Western society.

Nonetheless, homosexuals have not always conformed to those societal rules that have attempted to deny their existence and persecute them. Many have made great strides toward changing them, mostly within Western, or capitalist, society. Historian Barry D. Adam, in *The Rise of a Gay and Lesbian Movement*, argues that capitalist society created the preconditions that led to the lesbian and gay sociopolitical movement in the U.S. and parts of Europe. He suggests that the tendency of capitalist society to create massive social mobility and to allow for the possibility of living away from large families created a homosexual subculture and its subsequent sociopolitical movement.

For many years, as far back as the 1700s in Europe, there has been a primarily white homosexual subculture in Western cities. It is marked by bars and social clubs mostly for men. Women sometimes frequented these bars, but were generally the minority. Those who discovered their homosexuality knew that they would not be accepted into the mainstream of society, and instead began to create spaces in which they could be relatively comfortable with their sexuality. Their comfort was limited because the bars were frequently raided by police and people were often arrested for patronizing them. It was this limited comfort which later led some lesbian women and gay men to form organizations to gain rights for themselves.

African-American homosexuals—both men and women—were indeed a part of this phenomenon; several bars that arose in the U.S. had a largely black homosexual clientele. One city that became notorious for its black night life and culture was New York City. By the end of the 19th century, Harlem was the cultural base of the African-American community. The longest continuously operating gay events in American history were the lavish black homosexual drag balls in Harlem that began in the 1890s. The Savoy Ballroom, originally at Lenox and 140th St., was known to house these gala events in the 1920s.

There are both positive and negative consequences to the emergence of this homosexual subculture. The creation of private spaces like bars gave people opportunity to spend their leisure time comfortably as openly lesbian or gay. In these social settings people can let go of the façade of being "straight"; within their subculture, people are free to be themselves. However while it is clear that the homosexual subculture had to be hidden, the mere existence of a subculture maintains the premise that being gay or lesbian is at best a "private" issue and at worst, a cause for self-hatred.

Despite the safety of being hidden, both from the larger society and the black community, there have been times in the history of African-Americans when individual people who were gay or lesbian (or bisexual) have become public figures. However, these individuals have been recognized for their contributions to the black community: the black community

has generally avoided the question of their sexuality and the individuals themselves have chosen not to be politically gay.

The Harlem Renaissance was one such period. From roughly 1919 to 1934, Harlem presented an opportunity for members of the growing Negro elite to express themselves. Several members of this elite were gay or lesbian, and, while their sexuality was certainly not sanctioned, it was tolerated by their contemporaries: "rumors aside, Harlem always ignored or forgave everything of its best and brightest."

Many of the artists and writers who became famous during the Renaissance did so with the help of an influential group of philanthropists known as "The Six": Jessie Redmon Fauset, Charles Johnson, Alain Locke, Walter White, Casper Holsteing and James Weldon Johnson. Each of these people

The longest continuously operating gay events in American history were the lavish black homosexual drag balls in Harlem that began in the 1890s.

had the means to give "emergency loans and temporary beds, professional advice and Downtown contracts, prizes and publicity," to struggling talents. They were all members of the Harlem elite, each having a prestigious college education, and they were relatively wealthy—some more than others. "Without these six, the Harlem roster of 26 novels, ten volumes of poetry, five Broadway plays, innumerable essays and short stories, two or three performed ballets and concerti, and the large output of canvas and sculpture would have been a great deal shorter."

Alain Locke, who was more capable of offering financial assistance to Renaissance artists than all but one of the "The Six," was a black gay man. Locke's father was a member of the fourth class to graduate from Howard University's law department. Locke was a *magna cum laude* graduate of Harvard University, the first African-American Rhodes scholar at Oxford University, and, later, a professor at Howard. He was also a good friend of W.E.B. DuBoise; Locke and DuBoise "were among the most scrupulously educated Americans."

In 1925, Locke's *The New Negro,* an anthology of work by 34 African-Americans and four whites, was published. The theme of the anthology was based on Locke's "conviction that the race's 'more immediate hope rests in the revelation by white and black alike of the Negro in terms of his artistic endowments and cultural contributions, past and prospective.' " As a result of the book, the term "The New Negro" began to be used to describe the cultural elite who, like Locke, seemed to believe that racism could be ended by generating universal respect for the cultural expressions of blacks. Locke's contribution, like that of most everyone involved in the Harlem Renaissance, was to the black community at-large. While those who knew him well were aware that he was a homosexual, Locke's gayness was never a part of his political and public identity.

Perhaps the most noted of those whom Locke assisted was James Mercer Langston Hughes. Hughes is one of the most revered black writers of all time. His poems are included in all kinds of anthologies, both "American" and African-American. One of his most famous pieces is a short poem called "I, too." Its theme is a call for the world to recognize that African-Americans are not invisible, that they are a part of the U.S. The first line reads "I, too sing America," the last states "I, too am American." Because Hughes never married and was very good friends with several men known to be homosexual, speculation about his sexuality has been widespread. While no one is certain, several historians claim that it is very likely that he, too, sang black gay American.

The first piece of fiction to explore the theme of black homosexuality was published during the Harlem Renaissance; its writer was Richard Bruce Nugent. In 1926, his short story "Smoke, Lillies, and Jade" was published in the short-lived journal *Fire!!* This short story was reprinted in *Black Men/White Men: A Gay Anthology,* and is mentioned in both Joseph Beam's *In the Life: A Black Gay Anthology,* and *Other Countries: Black Gay Voices,* the latter two being significant contributions to a recent surge in published black gay male literature. There were several other talents from the Harlem Renaissance who were African-American homosexual men and women, but that is outside the scope of this article.

The next period that held significance for the growing group-consciousness of black gay men and black lesbian women was the Civil Rights Movement. It was during these years that the emergence of James Baldwin created some turmoil in the social fabric of American culture. Baldwin's *Giovanni's Room,* published in 1956 and set in Paris, is a story of love between men. Perhaps the most controversial piece of writing on the issue of race that has been published in the United States was his *The Fire Next Time,* published in 1963. It was in this work that Baldwin called upon his nephew to "...accept them [whites]...accept them with love. For these innocent people have no other hope. They are, in effect still trapped in a history which they do not understand."

Unfortunately for the community of African-American gay men and lesbian women, Baldwin was not politically gay; in an interview with the editor of *The Black Scholar* he stated, "I love men but I am not homosexual." He insisted that his sexuality was a private matter, either unwilling or unable to recognize the significance of being "out." While he did realize that people who were black and gay, a word whose meaning he "never really understood" were at a greater disadvantage than white gays, he never took on that reality as a political issue worthy of his energies.

But, this is not to underestimate the significance of James Baldwin for the community of black gay men and lesbian women. Despite his insistence that his gayness should remain private, Baldwin was never afraid to say that he loved men; neither was he afraid to write about it. In 1979, Baldwin completed and published the first full-length novel that deals with the experience of black gay men in the United States, *Just Above My Head.* Bayard Rustin was also a major figure during the civil rights movement. He was the principal organizer for the 1963 March on Washington. Most of the country was not privy to the knowledge of Rustin's sexual orientation, but many of the leaders of the civil rights movement did know of it. Unfortunately, but not surprisingly, the leaders asked Rustin to keep his "private" life private; the "black" agenda had to be pushed first. Fortunately, in 1985, Rustin began to speak out about being black and gay. Before his death in 1987, he had done full-length interviews

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3 Black History Program/Pro Bowl Party	**4** Bid Whist Weekly Tournament	**5** 8:30 p.m.: Weekly Video Karoke Sing-Along	**6**	**7**	**8** Mardi Gras King and Queen Coronation	**9** 9 p.m.: Mardi Gras Carnival
10 Black History Program	**11**	**12**	**13** East Coat Sleeze Party/After Hours	**14** 9 p.m.: Valentine's Day Ball	**15** 4th Annual National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference	**16**
17 6 p.m.: Black History Program/Catch One After Hours	**18** Bid Whist Weekly Tournament	**19** 8:30 p.m.: Weekly Video Karoke Sing-Along	**20**	**21**	**22** 6 p.m.-4 a.m.: Party Animal Night	**23**
24 Black History Program Celebration	**25**	**26** 8:30 p.m.: Weekly Video Karoke Sing-Along	**27** Full Moon Celebration	**28**		

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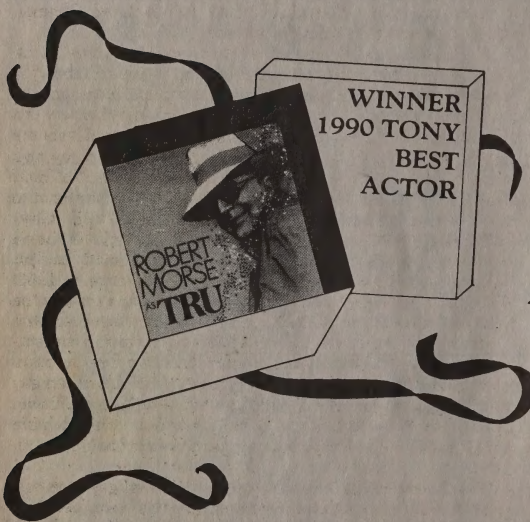

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At approximately the same time that the civil rights movement was forgoing ahead to end racism, a movement for homosexual rights was working to end homophobia in the United States. The "homophile" movement, as it was called, was made up of organizations in several cities, the most well-known of which were the Mattachine Society, a national organization comprised primarily of white gay men that began in Los Angeles in 1951 and had chapters in several major cities, and the Daughters of Bilitis (DOB), a similar organization comprised primarily of white lesbian women that began in San Francisco in 1955. The most significant contribution of this movement was that it gave people an opportunity to begin to question the idea that homosexuality is taboo.

The homophile movement, while it made some strides, was largely a conservative and assimilationist, middle-to-upper-class, white, male movement. The Mattachine Society spent much of its energy trying to convince homosexuals that the road to equality was to "stress the common humanity of homosexuals and heterosexuals and keep sexuality as such private," while DOB included in its objectives "advocating a mode of behavior and dress acceptable to society," "participation in research projects," and "investigation of the penal code as it pertains to the homosexual...and promotion of these changes through the due process of law in the state legislatures." The leaders of the homophile Movement were unwilling to accept homosexuals who frequented "the bar scene" and generally treated them as second-class homosexuals. This did not help to generate a mass movement because most of the people who would have been likely to join the movement were those who went to the bars.

Several gay men and lesbian women attempted to push a more radical agenda. They wanted to include and encompass those who went to the bars, and they wanted to become more political; many wanted to use tactics like those employed during the Civil Rights movement. But the time had not yet come. Those in control of the movement did not want to jeopardize their economic status by becoming openly and politically gay and lesbian.

The times began to change when, on a hot June night in New York City in 1969, one of the less "classy" gay bars that was frequented by African-American and Latino lesbians and gays was the target of a police raid, a long-standing tradition of New York's finest. However, this time the mostly black and Latino gays and lesbians, drag queens, hustlers, and jailbait juveniles did not run away. They fought back, throwing pennies, bottles, and bricks at the police. Anti-riot squads that were created for use in Harlem were sent in to clear the area. In the end, 13 people were arrested and four policemen were slightly injured. "The Stonewall Riots" lasted for two nights and, because of their militancy, they are seen as the impetus for the modern gay rights, gay pride movement. The sheer strength displayed at Stonewall helped to give gays and lesbians the inspiration to begin addressing a more radical agenda then the homophile movement did.

Despite the contribution that African-Americans and Latinos made to starting the gay rights movement, that movement did not make much of an effort to respond to the problems and needs of gays and lesbians of color. Like its predecessor the homophile movement, this new movement was quickly dominated by white gay men. As the gay pride movement progressed, black lesbians and gays and white lesbians began to realize that while the leadership may have shared their common interest in ending homophobia, these while male leaders were not as interested in giving up the power that their whiteness and maleness afforded them in American society.

As a result, several splits in political organization began to happen in the early 1970s. Sexism in the gay pride movement and homophobia in the women's movement led to a lesbian and radicalesbian movement. As a result of an increase in blacks earning a college education in the 1970s—which was in large part due to Affirmative Action, a product of the civil rights movement—a growing number of African-Americans became involved in lesbian and gay politics. In the face of racism in the gay pride movement, the women's movement, and the lesbian movement, both black gay men and lesbian women—separately and in coalition—found the need to organize separately from whites and men.

Along with racism, black lesbian women also faced the sexism of black gay men and the homophobia of some black feminists, and they realized that they experienced all the major oppression (racism, classism, sexism and homophobia), which led to a further split in the development of the black lesbian female and black gay male communities. In fact, the oldest organization for African-American homosexuals is African-American Wimmin United for Societal Change, which began as Salsa Soul Sisters in 1975.

Most of the growth, therefore, that has taken place in the community of black gay men and lesbian women in the U.S. is a very recent, and organizationally complex, development. Nineteen seventy-eight marked the beginning of a new era of trust. It was during this year that black gays and lesbians joined forces separate from the larger lesbian and gay and black movements to form what was then called the National Coalition of Black Gays (In 1985, the name was changed to the National Coalition of Black *Lesbians and* Gays (NCBLG).) NCBG took advantage of the October 1979 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights to hold the first National Third World Lesbian and Gay Conference. In 1980, black gay men joined forces with white gay men to create the National Association of Black and White Men Together/Men of All Colors Together. Chapters of this organization currently exist in over 20 U.S. cities, and at least two foreign countries. Several organizations solely for African-American gay men have come and gone, with at least Gay Men of African Descent in New York City (1986), Adodi in Philadelphia (1986) and the Black Men's Xchange in California (1989), remaining.

The threat that AIDS has imposed upon all gay men and the entire African-American community has been, perhaps, the most important contributing factor to the recent growth in the sociopolitical movement of African-American gay men. Watching their friends die and knowing that several of them would die soon, combined with the nationwide hysteria that aroused more homophobic discrimination and violence, led many gay men and lesbian women of all races to become politically involved. Sociopolitical organizations provided a forum for support and an opportunity to plan ways to get funding for AIDS research and services and medication for those who could not afford them.

The 1980s has seen a strong effort on the parts of African-American gay men, both individually and collectively, to "come out of the closet" in a society where, as Joseph Beam—a hero and pioneer of the community of black gay men—puts it, "Visibility is survival." It was during the mid-to-late 1980s that black gay men developed a level of group-consciousness that led them to form organizations solely for themselves, to work more with black lesbian women and with white gay men, and to express in writing, photography, theater, and film the experience of the Community of African-American gay men in the United States.

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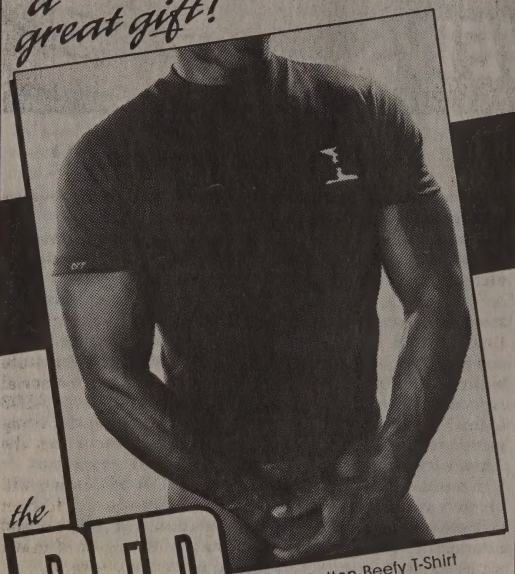

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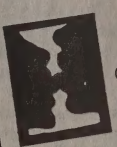

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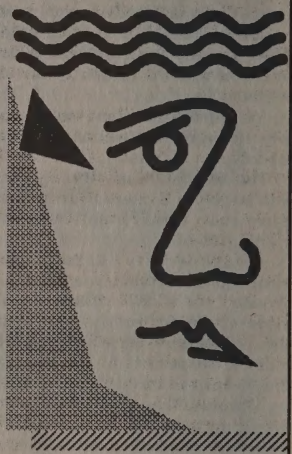

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BLK NEWS

Leadership Forum Gears Up for Fourth Conference

By Mark Haile, BLK Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES—Audre Lorde will be coming to Los Angeles to deliver the keynote address at the 1991 National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference on Feb. 9 through 18.

Lorde, the prolific essayist, poet, feminist, announced conference co-chairs Michelle Walker and Mitchel El-Mahdy, will be the highlight of the ten days of meetings, cultural events and social affairs. By far the most ambitious conference yet in terms of its inclusivity of participants and presentations, the 1991 conference will be held at the Downtown Hyatt Hotel.

A significant body of participants will be African-Americans with AIDS and HIV infection. The organizers are ensuring that every black person with AIDS can come to the conference who wishes to, with conference co-chair Walker stating, "We make every effort to get them here," noting scholarships are available, as is travel assistance and a hospitality suite that will be provided on site for PWAs.

The annual AIDS luncheon will once again honor the men and women on the frontlines of the battle against AIDS in the black community. Included among the honorees and presenters at past conferences are Patti LaBelle, Natalie Cole, Whoopi Goldberg and California State Assemblymember Maxine Waters. The luncheon has generated thousands of dollars for AIDS organizations across the country since its inception.

There will be four principal awards announced over the course of the conference: The James Baldwin Arts and Letters Awards for the outstanding cultural contribution to the African-American lesbian and gay community, the Bayard Rustin Award honoring political activism, the Harriet Tubman Award to the organization of the year and the Frederick Garnett Award in honor of the gay African-American who devoted the last years of his life to AIDS activism before succumbing to the disease himself in 1987.

Audre Lorde was herself recipient of the first James Baldwin Award in 1988. The 57-year-old grandmother activist was honored in October with a conference in Boston based on her literary works.

As the dates get nearer, the shape of the National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference becomes monumental, both in its size and the scope of activities to be included.

Over 1000 lesbians and gay men of African Descent are expected in Los Angeles to participate in the conference, attending over 150 workshops, three full days of cultural programming, a series of stunning social bashes and honoring the black lesbian and gay movement's pioneers as the next wave of activists learn their craft.

It will be the west coast's largest ever gathering of lesbians and gay men of color. It will be one of the largest conferences nationwide, period.

The conference will be preceeded by the second annual Black Gay and Lesbian Cultural Arts Festival, beginning Feb. 9. Co-sponsored by the African-American Gay and Lesbian Cultural Alliance, the festival will have three days of black lesbian and gay theater, film, video, dance, poetry, performance art and visual art. Among those contributing works will be author/performer Essex Hemphill, with other cast members of Marlon Riggs's acclaimed video, *Tongues Untied.*

Registration will open Tuesday, Feb. 12 with orientation tours for L.A. visitors and with visits scheduled for popular attractions.

Wednesday, Feb. 13, the first of several days devoted to tracks of coordinated sessions will begin with the Spirituality Institute and the Leadership Development Institute.

On Thursday, Feb. 14, the fourth annual AIDS Institute will run on throughout the day. That evening, a memorial service will be accompanied by a presentation of the AIDS Quilt. Participants in the conference are encouraged to bring panels to be included in the quilt, which will then join the Names Project [National AIDS Quilt] in San Francisco.

Friday, Feb. 15, the women's roundtable discussion will provide a full day of dialogue, a forum for all black lesbian voices to provide for the exchange of ideas. The institute and attendant luncheon will be the first and largest of many women-specific events on the agenda for the weekend.

The conference workshops have achieved an all-time high in diversity, sheer number and inclusivity.

Covered will be the standard skills-building musts, such as obtaining non-profit status, fundraising and developing professionalism. As well, many more presentations will take place, focusing on self-esteem issues, creativity, relationships, culture and history, and a focus on often overlooked segments within the community, such as lesbians and gay men of African descent from outside the United States or persons of mixed heritage.

Mobilizing a community against racism, sexism and homophobia, learning the secrets of organizational structuring, confronting everything from internalized low self-esteem to the U.S. Senate may seem like a tall order for a single conference. The successive expansion of the Leadership Forum with each conference has provided the means for the community's continued development, sophistication and clout.

The program committee has stressed each year that this is a participatory conference. The planning is a hands-on process, with the subject matter to be covered, the basic skills needed, the workshop presenters and speakers all being chosen by the community-at-large. Thus, the final shape of the conference reflects the width and breath of the experiences, knowledge, resources and vision within the black lesbian and gay community.

Over the ten days of institutes, panels, plenaries and seminars, professionals will be learning from each other, novices will be given the basics and in the case of African-Americans living with HIV, black lesbians and gay men in recovery, lesbians and gay men of multicultural heritages and so many other groups, men and women will be sharing their personal experiences with each other—the ground level link at building a cohesive community.

"It's a place where we can all gather together," said Walker. " It's not very often we're able to share our information from our perspective and to have people coming from all over the world."

The conference social highpoint will be the Saturday, Feb. 16 dinner-dance, themed, "Children in Paradise," an evening

Continued on page 28

SKIP AND BEAR THREW THE PARTY, BUT Y'ALL WERE THE PARTY, SO HERE'S A SPECIAL THANKS TO THOSE WHO CAME, WHO HELPED, AND WHO MADE IT MELLOW:

To Tom and Homer, for their apartment, the food trays, and for being great neighbors.

•

To Adamo "Dreads" DiGregorio for all his work, and for putting up with Skip and José.

•

To José and Louis, who helped put the place together, and clean it up.

•

To Tony Powell. Baby, those tapes weren't just live, they exploded!

•

To Sheldon, a conscientious, mellow security guard.

•

To Gerald Bowie, for finally being there.

•

To Vincent and Tony, for not being there.

•

To Russell, Colville, and Cappy, for making sure that those who were too full didn't break their legs going into the backyard.

•

To Ken, as usual, a great, uncomplaining bartender, and cute, too!

•

To J.T. for picking up Eugene Rogers, who helped put the place in order and then tried to replace Gary with every boy at the party.

•

And to all of you from everywhere—they tell me Frankfurt, D.C., and Uganda was there—who brought things, who brought yourselves, who brought friends, and who brought a fine, wide smile to 1991. Let's three-peat next year!

Carl Bean Starts Fast to Keep AIDS Program Open

LOS ANGELES—Rev. Carl Bean began a fast on Jan. 8 to demonstrate the severity of the need for more financial resources to keep the Minority AIDS Project, which he founded, opened for business.

The financial crisis at the agency, an outgrowth of the Unity Fellowship Church, has reached a point where the doors could be shut within 30 days if the community at large cannot come up with about $400,000. Emergency funds from the Ryan White CARE bill are not being allocated to MAP despite its position as the largest agency providing services to people of color in Southern California. Flanked by board members and clients of MAP, Rev. Bean was candid about the immediacy of the crisis and somewhat dismayed that funds from individuals and corporations that do come into AIDS agencies only get as far as the 'safe' high profile organizations. Many of these same organizations downplay the gayness of AIDS, and not coincidentally tend to be largely white in both staff and clients.

It is because of that type of inequity in service delivery that the Minority AIDS Project was founded in 1985, and still finds that the need for it's existence confirmed daily. MAP presently serves between 500-700 clients. For blacks and other people of color with AIDS, the diagnosis comes so much later than for whites, that the immediacy of their need is far greater. Rev. Bean's mission has been to have an agency for all the PWAs forgotten by other agencies; his personal credo has been to turn no one away, no matter what.

The National Commission on AIDS heard testimony recently that blacks have a long, well-founded history of mistrust of the medical establishment. Discrimination and traditionally inadequate medical care means that most of the clients who arrive at MAP are far more destitute and in much worse shape physically than their white counterparts, with a life expectancy half that of white PWAs.

Rev. Bean expressed his fears as to what could happen to those men, women and children left homeless and hopeless by HIV infection, should MAP not be there to provide the $5,000 or so each month it spends in direct cash grants to keep them off the streets and fed.

There is no official allowance for cash grants to provide direct assistance to PWAs in the monies from Washington and Sacramento, thus much of this money must come from the individual private donors who currently provide only 15 percent of MAP's operating budget. Other agencies engaged in similar programs rely extensively on donations. MAP at present doesn't have sufficient staff or volunteers, however, to direct such massive fundraising campaigns. This is compounded by the problem that the community MAP serves is far less able to give at a level than that the gay community is capable of. The assistance MAP needs—not just to meet the present emergency, but to ensure ongoing support for the project—must come from other sources in addition to the black community, straight and gay alike.

"There needs to be a community response to this crisis," stated Rev. Bean. "There needs to be a response to this disease that might help our people out." Bean vowed to stay on the fast, "Hopefully only for a night, but as long as it takes." Just an hour after the press conference announcing the fast, a check arrived from an unidentified woman for $5,000, a welcome start in the right direction. Bean made a special appeal to figures in the entertainment industry to lend their support, noting how AIDS is but the newest in a long line of crises for African-Americans, one that leaves the vast majority of the community less able to support its institutions.

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Black Gay Man to Sit on City Gay, Lesbian Panel

SEATTLE—Milton Farquhar is one of the newest members of the Seattle Commission for Lesbians and Gays. Prior to moving to Seattle in 1987, Farquhar had lived in Los Angeles and New York, as well as five years in Berlin.

Farquhar, who likes to describe himself as a "Taoist eco-feminist queer," says he is excited about the energy in Queer Nation, whose meetings he attends. He is also up front about his support of feminism.

As a Commission member, Farquhar says he hopes to help connect the African-American lesbian community more solidly in the gay and lesbian community as a whole. The new commissioner has a background in fundraising and public relations for community-based AIDS organizations.

D.C. Organization Gets New Name, New Officers

WASHINGTON—What used to be known as the D.C. Coalition of Black Gay Men and Women has voted to change its name to the D.C. Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gay Men. The change was one of several made formal last month at the group's annual election meeting. The Coalition also voted to replace the post of president with female and male co-chairs.

Elected to head the group for the coming year were Louise Gant and Kevin Taylor, co-chairs; Courtney Williams, secretary and Darren Vuckner, treasurer.

Ald. Robert Shaw Joins in 43-0 Hate Crimes Vote

CHICAGO—To the surprise of gay campaigners, the Chicago Hate Crimes Ordinance passed the City Council Dec. 19 by a vote of 43-0. Even the council's most vocal homophobe, black Alderman Robert Shaw, was moved by testimony of anti-gay violence perpetrated by Chicago police officers, and cast a vote to increase penalties for such crimes.

Chicago is believed to be the first city or state to pass a gay-inclusive hate-crimes law by a unanimous vote. The measure increases penalties for most all hate-motivated crimes based on sexual orientation and a long list of other factors.

First-time violators will face up to an extra $1,000 fine and an extra year in prison. Activists will now turn their attention to a gay-rights law for Cook County and "some sort of domestic-partnership legislation" in Chicago.

Harvey to Quit Whitman

WASHINGTON—Jim Harvey, senior deputy administrator at the Whitman-Walker Clinic in the District, will step down at the end of January. He will be leaving the agency, where he has worked for almost four years, to develop an African-American AIDS service center.

Harvey, who ran for the D.C. City Council unsuccessfully last fall, didn't rule out the possibility of running for office in the future, saying, "I intend to stick around and do my part to help give this town the fair shake it deserves."

CDC November Statistics on AIDS Cases in U.S.

	White (not Latino)		Black (not Latino)		Latino		Asian/Pacific Islander		American Indian/ Alaskan Native		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
MALE												
Gay and bisexual contact	65,634	80	15,611	44	9,776	46	717	81	120	63	92,049	66
Straight IV drug use	5,203	6	12,423	35	8,258	39	26	3	21	11	25,995	19
Gay and bisexual contact, and IV drug use	5,990	7	2,805	8	1,496	7	20	2	29	15	10,356	7
Hemophilia and coagulation disorder	1,107	1	87	0	104	0	16	2	8	4	1,327	1
Straight contact	550	1	2,392	7	305	1	7	1	2	1	3,260	2
Receipt of blood transfusion, blood components or tissue	1,640	2	331	1	196	1	45	5	1	1	2,222	2
Other and undetermined	1,746	2	1,566	4	1,038	5	49	6	10	5	4,449	3
Male subtotal	81,870	100	35,215	100	21,173	100	880	100	191	100	139,658	100
FEMALE												
IV drug use	1,612	40	4,474	57	1,570	51	14	18	16	52	7,699	51
Hemophilia and coagulation disorder	26	1	5	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	33	0
Straight contact	1,189	30	2,546	32	1,157	37	28	35	8	26	4,944	33
Receipt of blood transfusion, blood components or tissue	910	23	284	4	177	6	26	33	3	10	1,402	9
Other and undetermined	277	7	570	7	190	6	11	14	4	13	1,055	7
Female subtotal	4,014	100	7,879	100	3,096	100	79	100	31	100	15,133	100
Total	85,884		43,094		24,269		959		222		154,791	

Source: "Adult/Adolescent AIDS Cases by Sex, Exposure Category and Race/Ethnicity Reported through November 1990, United States," U.S. Centers for Disease Control. HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, December 1990.

Neglect Charged as Threat to Black Women Rises

By Mark Haile, BLK Staff Writer

WASHINGTON—AIDS is the number one killer of black women between the ages of 25 and 44. This was not a dramatic revelation by researchers at the first conference sponsored by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) on women and HIV held in Washington, D.C. Dec. 13 and 14. Rather, it was the message AIDS activists and health care workers gave to the government officials who have paid scant attention to HIV in women.

While filled with emotional moments as women with AIDS and HIV infection discussed their feelings and told of their experiences, the only information to come out of the conference was a history of what has not been done and what had been done wrong, with apologies by NIAID for past mistakes and promises by government agencies to do better in the future.

What was the most useful portion of the weekend by the health workers' perspective was an all too rare opportunity to share knowledge on treatment of women suffering from various HIV induced infections. To date, the government has not sponsored any studies on HIV in women; only 275 women nationwide participate in any HIV trials. As a result, Medicaid and other disability benefits are denied because opportunistic infections specific to women are not included among the unrealisticly short list of symptoms that officially define when a person has AIDS or ARC.

At the 6th International Conference on AIDS last June in San Francisco, the government was hit by critics for not expanding their definition of AIDS criteria in light of nearly a decade of constantly evolving information. The criteria was established by studying gay men who made up the overwhelming majority of the first AIDS cases in the United States. Women now account for 12 percent of the AIDS cases in the U.S., compared with 50 percent in many African countries.

Research by health workers show a number of symptoms including vaginal thrust; cervical cancer; yeast infections in the vagina, mouth and esophagus; pelvic inflammatory disease; bacterial pneumonia; wasting syndrome and dysplasia.

Women's health issues are so routinely ignored or understudied, that women suffer doubly from the sexism and homophobia combined when it comes to issues surrounding HIV. The government readily acknowledged that most of the women with HIV are minorities, live in the inner city and do not have access to proper health care.

Anthony Fauci, Director of NIAID and a constant target of criticism by AIDS activists, apologized for the lack of attention his agency has paid to the health of women affected by HIV, holding an unscheduled meeting to privately listen to the women with HIV during the conference. Fauci along with Dan Hoth, director of NIAID's AIDS division, declined invitations to visit clinics in the Bronx that were underfunded and under staffed because they are providing services to women with HIV that the government officially claims don't exist. The Centers for Disease Control estimates only a third of the women with HIV are meeting the official criteria of what constitutes AIDS.

Participants in the conference, most of whom are service providers on the frontlines, also spoke out sharply against the slowness of the government to react to the alarming jump 29 percent in the last year in the rising number of women with AIDS.

While women to women transmission of the virus during sex is still debated, and an extremely rare occurance at best, lesbians are not so isolated from the rest of the world as to escape infection through other means. Prevention efforts aimed at women lags behind that aimed at men in a manner similar to that surrounding the availability of treatment.

Speaking as to how direct a threat AIDS represents to lesbians, Mary Adair, chair of AIDS Healthcare Foundation of Los Angeles, said, "Speaking as a woman, AIDS is a woman's issue. It always has been. Speaking as a lesbian, AIDS is an issue of homophobia and always has been. Speaking as a human being, AIDS is an issue of sexism , racism and classism and always has been." Adair noted that AIDS will become one of the five leading causes of death in women between the ages of 15 and 44 in 1991.

The entire conference audience of 2,000 stood in support as women with HIV read a statement at the closing plenary that demanded a change in the CDC definition of AIDS, making disability benefits available for women with HIV, and to include women in clinical drug trials.

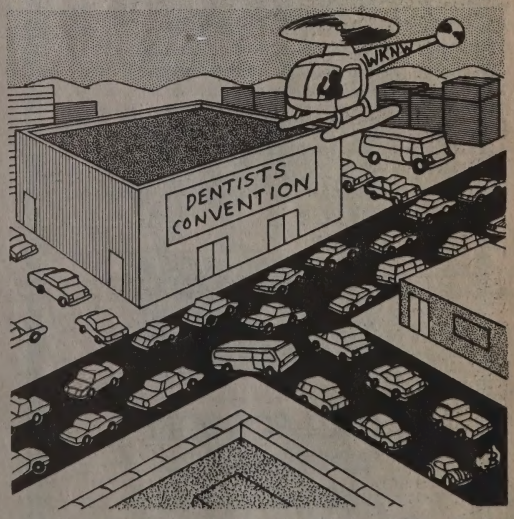
"Change the definition now" was the battle cry of the weekend, from banners unfurled during speeches to heated exchanges between activists and officials.

As the conference itself was the end result of increased pressure on the federal government to respond appropriately, so too do activists hope it is the beginning of an effective, inclusive era on the part of the agencies who hold the power of life and death as readily in their bureaucratic decisions as in their research laboratories.

Black Gay Video Gets $

SAN FRANCISCO—Catherine Saalfield has been awarded a $2,000 grant by Frameline to help complete *Among Good Christian Peoples*, an experimental narrative video based on Jacqueline Woodson's personal essay, "Growing Up Black and Gay Among Good Christian Peoples."

Frameline, a non-profit lesbian and gay media arts organization, awarded a total of $5,000 in cash grants to filmmakers and video producers for completion of lesbian and gay productions.



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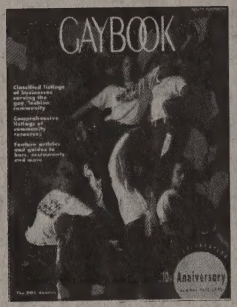

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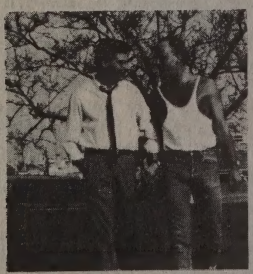

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Liberian Civil War Dooms African Gay Organization

MONROVIA, Liberia—Club Lambda, the only gay group in the West African nation of Liberia, has disbanded for the duration of the country's ongoing bloody civil war.

Prior to the time that rebel forces reached Monrovia, the capital, the group's membership had grown to 75 and plans were afoot to start a second chapter in a regional capital. Now, most of the 75 members have taken refuge in neighboring Freetown, Sierra Leone or Abidjan, Ivory Coast. The remainder are hiding with relatives in the bush.

A few of the group members who have money want to emigrate to the United States, but they must await a determination by the State Department of who is and isn't a Liberian refugee.

Club Lambda was launched in April, 1988, by U.S. Peace Corps volunteer, Tom Myers. Four people showed up for the first meeting.

"Liberian gay men and lesbians suffer ferocious oppression [as a result of] socially ingrained machismo in heterosexual men and a Christian fundamentalism propagated by American missionaries," Myers says. "The oppression includes ostracism by family, friends and associates; harassment from security police and militia; imprisonment merely for being homosexual; and blackmail."

The group's meetings were regularly raided by soldiers yelling the word "punk" which means "fag." "There's not too many Peace Corps volunteers who had to look down the barrels of M-16s," Myers said.

At the time of its shutdown, Club Lambda was still "building from the inside," according to Myers. "Pride, self-esteem, confidence, the ability to stand up and say, 'I'm not bad, I'm not evil, I'm not a horrible person like they tell me I am."

Liberia was founded by the U.S. National Colonization Society in 1822 as a home for freed American slaves. Today, most Liberians still lead tribal life in the rain forests, many working in the production of iron ore and natural rubber.

Club Lambda has no current address.

Karina stifles the urge to give the obvious answer.

Black C.A.R.E. Project Enters New Research Phase

LOS ANGELES—The Black Community AIDS Research and Education Project (Black C.A.R.E.) which has been gathering data from black gay and bisexual men throughout the United States has launched a new phase targeted specifically at black men in Los Angeles at risk of HIV infection.

Vickie M. Mays, Ph.D.

As part of the new effort, black men who may have not filled out the original self-administered questionnaire because of their reading skills or access to the survey will be interviewed. This new phase of Black C.A.R.E.'s efforts including counseling, HIV antibody testing and referral to early intervention programs.

Of particular interest to Vickie M. Mays, Ph.D., the director of the original project as well as its new extension, are those black gay and bisexual men whose sexual practices and self-identification have made them generally unavailable to traditional survey methods. Mays calls these the men "most don't have time for, find 'unreachable' or who have been forgotten."

Included in this group are black men who have had sex with other men while in prison, in the military or for money or drugs, male transsexuals, transvestites or crossdressers, and heterosexual men who through personal ads, baths or escort services have sex with other men. Special efforts to reach these men were used in the self-administered questionnaires and now in the Los Angeles interview study.

Mays says that "since 36 percent of all newly reported AIDS cases in the United States occur in the black population it is clear that education and prevention programs have not been successful enough to reach all groups of black gay and bisexual men."

Black C.A.R.E. was originally formed in 1987 to conduct a national study of AIDS knowledge, services and support of black men who have sex with other men. In 1987, in conjunction with a national advisory board, Black C.A.R.E. set out to reach over 1,000 black gay and bisexual men in order to make sure their voices would be heard in the AIDS epidemic.

The national study known to many by its bright blue color has over 800 completed questionnaires from black gay and bisexual men from more than 40 states throughout the U.S. Mays still hopes to reach the project's goal of 1,000 by urging those who still have the survey to complete and return them.

In Black C.A.R.E's new phase, much like with the national survey, "the community is responding fairly well," says Dr. Mays. In the new phase, called the Black Men's Health Project, there is an interview and pre- and post-test HIV antibody testing. Follow-up referral is available through a list of community physicians, UCLA clinical trials and other health care professionals in Los Angeles. Not only is testing free, but in many cases the researchers will pay participants for their time and effort. The Black Men's Health Project will repeat all of the test, free of charge, one year later to determine how a person's health is progressing in fighting exposure to HIV disease. The project's goal is to reach 200 black men. This is the only study designed specifically to understand the immunology and virology of HIV disease in black men.

"We know so little about how this disease may be different in our community," says Dr. Mays. "The only thing that we know is we die faster and get less services. Is it because we have limited access to services or maybe there are other reasons. If we don't look, we will never know."

Mays sees this project as offering black men, especially gay and bisexual men, information about HIV disease, and how to cope with it. Another goal is to provide the medical community with much needed information that can assist in drug development that takes into account ways that black men may differ.

The Black Men's Health Project is currently soliciting volunteers to help do outreach in all parts of Los Angeles County in such areas as skidrow, among the homeless and other places where black men are unlikely to receive messages about AIDS. Volunteers can commit as little as three hours a month to helping to spread the word about the study and provide HIV-related information to black men in the Los Angeles community.

Black C.A.R.E. is eager to reach its goal of 1,000 responses. Those who have not yet received a copy of its national self-administered questionnaire can request one; those who already have, are urged to complete and return it. The project is particularly interested in hearing from black gay and bisexual men Montana, Wyoming, New Mexico, North and South Dakota, Nebraska, West Virginia and the New England states where response has been low.

Black C.A.R.E. can be reached at 405 Hilgard Ave., 1283 Franz, Los Angeles, Calif. 90024-1563, 213-825-9858.

White Activists Confront Arsenio Hall on TV Show

LOS ANGELES—In an action somewhat reminiscent of the "zaps" of the early days of the gay pride movement, 20 white gay activists turned out for a visit to the *Arsenio Hall Show* at the Paramount Studios on Dec. 14.

The running dialogue between members of the Los Angeles chapter of Queer Nation and the talk show host was cut on some stations, so that the three to four million late night viewers saw anywhere from four to ten minutes of the shouting match that ensued.

One by one the activists stood up and challenged homophobic remarks made by Hall. As each activist spoke out, they were lead out of the studio in turn by a security guard. "Arsenio Hall has a long standing history of using homophobic stereotypes in his humor and sketches," said Scott Rabbie, one the activists involved in the action.

In addition to confronting Hall on his homophobic remarks, the activists, some of whom wore their Queer Nation T-Shirts for the cameras, challenged Hall to have more openly gay guests on his show. Hall became visibly angry during the disruption, telling the activists at one point, "Get your own show!"

Hall shouted, "There are a lot of gay guests on this show, but it ain't none of your damn business that they are gay." When Hall apologized for the incident to his audience, he later refered to the protesters as "white trash," calling them "stupid" and "rude."

After all of the vocal Queer Nation activists had been peacefully escorted out of the studio, a still flustered and angry Hall met his first guest, Paul Hogan of *Crocodile Dundee*, and greeted him with a kiss. Hogan then did his best to help calm Arsenio down, by telling him to "lighten up."

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Meeting on Racism Held

SAN DIEGO—The Harvey Milk Club of San Diego presented a community forum on racism in the lesbian and gay community, with various organizations serving the needs of people of color in the region on hand.

The forum, held at the Center for Social Services on Dec. 18, included Lesbians and Gays of African Descent United, Gay and Lesbian Asian Pacific Islander Social Support (GLASS), BWMT/San Diego and Orgullo, a Latino lesbian and gay organization. The forum, in its third year, was organized by Harvey Milk Club vice-president, Jim Cua, a founder of GLASS, and the first male to serve in a statewide capacity with the National Organization of Women.

Forum Confab Opens

Continued from page 21

that will showcase African-American lesbian and gay men at their finest. The formal dinner will, as always, be the social event of the year for the community.

Behind the fanfare and celebration will be a cadre of dozens of volunteers that will keep the conference flowing smoothly and most importantly, accessible to all who want to be there. The organizers of the conference must recruit sufficient medical personnel to be on call at all hours for participants with compromised immune systems. Interpreters are needed for the hearing impaired and scores of volunteers who can be temporary "buddies" for the weekend will all help those with limited mobility access the conference fully.

The hotel itself is fully wheelchair accessible and sensitized to the needs of the differently abled.

The organizers will have a variety of accommodations available in the central city area surrounding the Hyatt, located near most of the city's bus lines and the terminus of the new Blue Line light rail system.

More students have arrived each year, providing a rare opportunity for different generations of activists to share with each other. They and many others will rely on the resources of the housing committee to provide for those who otherwise will not be staying at the Hyatt Hotel.

Albert stifles the urge to give the obvious answer.

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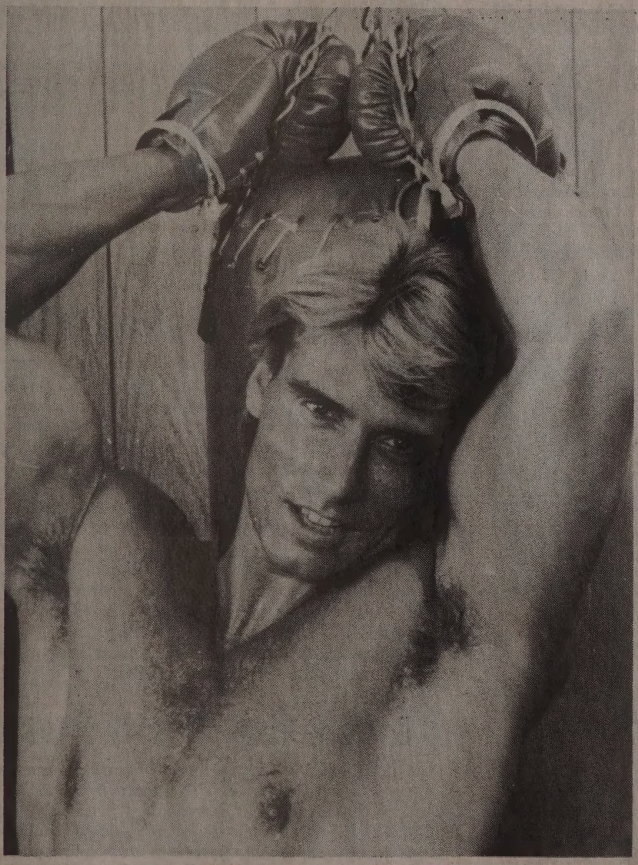

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Black Lesbian, Gay Cultural Fest Set for February

By Mark Haile, BLK Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES—The African-American Gay and Lesbian Cultural Alliance is putting finishing touches on its annual African-American Gay and Lesbian Cultural Festival encompassing four days and nights of dance, performance art, theater and film.

From the theater pieces opening the festival on Sat., Feb. 9 through the film screenings on Tues., Feb. 12, black lesbian and gay artists will be touching on every aspect of their lives and experiences in every conceivable medium.

The theater, dance and poetry performances, as well as the history presentation and awards ceremony, to the panel discussions and gala parties will all take place at the Crossroads Arts Academy, 4310 Degnan Blvd. in Los Angeles.

Television producer Lamond Ayers is the festival's artistic director. He is also a member of the board of directors of Gentlemen Concerned.

Saturday afternoon opens with a dance performance of *Song for My Brothers* followed by a reprise performance of *Tri-Sections,* written and performed by Ayofemi Folayan with music composed and performed by Debbie Lawrence. *Tri-Sections,* made possible in part by a grant from the Department of Cultural Affairs of the City of Los Angeles, is "a dramatic tapestry," where Folayan celebrates her experiences as a lesbian, as a woman who is physically challenged, as a black woman, as a woman who must fight for her right to self-esteem and acceptance from her family.

Also on Saturday afternoon, the art exhibit will open, featuring the work of artists from across the country. Video screenings will begin on Monday and Tuesday. Among the films showcasing the history and presence of black lesbian and gay life are *International Sweethearts of Rhythm, Tiny and Ruby: Hell Divin' Women, Women in Love, Affirmations* and *Tongues Untied.*

Saturday evening's performances begin with the world premiere of *Children of the Night,* a "choreopoem" concepted and staged by Stephen Semien. A modern jazz-dance set to verbal recitation of poetry with a cappella voices, *Children of the Night* is dedicated to Semien's brother, godfather and friends lost to AIDS.

Semien began his dancing career in the Joel Noble Dance Company, studying with the Dance Theater of Harlem and the Alvin Ailey School of American Dance among many others. He has performed in videos with Paula Abdul, Steve Winwood and Jody Watley and was nominated for a Hollywood NAACP theater award for the musical *De Obeah Mon.*

Following *Children* is the world premiere of *Saxophone Me, Baby* by Angela Counts, a bluesy story of the isolation and alienation of a black lesbian as she struggles through coming out in her community. Auditions are being held for the seven character performance piece.

Adele Renault, Los Angeles-based poet will perform her work, hailed by critics as "one of the strongest new voices in the Los Angeles poetry scene. Her textural approach toward life is direct, comical and full of wisdom and severe states of pleasure."

Following the Saturday evening performance will be a gala opening night party with yet more performances.

AAGLCA is offering a special $45 series ticket which will allow admission to all of the performances, screenings and panel discussions of black gay and lesbian artists. The series pass will be the surest way to see the festival as some individual events may sell out prior to the day of the performance. Pass discounts will be available to registered participants of the National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference and to AAGLCA members.

Sunday afternoon, AAGLCA will present a black history and awards program, honoring those persons past and present who "made a significant contribution to the well-being of the African-American gay and lesbian community." Last year's honorees included Stanley Bennett Clay and Sylvia Bennett (no relation). Charles Stewart will deliver the afternoon's keynote address.

"The politically correct New Yorkers have decided that being lesbian or gay is sexist. They are requiring everyone to be bisexual."

Woman, 19, Poses as Man

ANAHEIM, Calif—A red-faced Orange County Sheriff's Department is on the lookout for 19-year-old Teresa Jones, who is facing charges of suspicion of burglary. Jones was released from custody when the sheriffs, to their surprise, discovered that the suspect they had arrested—who gave his name as Louis Jones—was actually a female.

"Even the individual who was arrested with her was surprised," said Sheriff's spokesman Capt. Bon Eason.

Jones had been arrested previously for impersonation of men. When her gender was discovered after the burglary arrests, Jones told Sheriff's deputies that Louis was her twin brother. To use the name of another person when arrested would have been a felony charge, but officers could not verify that Jones did or did not have a brother.

Charges have been refiled for the suspicion of burglary under Jones's actual name and gender.

Blacks Get Stein Posts

WASHINGTON—Three men of color have been retained or newly elected as officers of the Gertrude Stein Democratic Club for the coming year. Lorenzo Williams was elected vice president for administration and Alexander Robinson was elected vice president for governmental and political affairs. Both are members of the D.C. Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gay Men. Mauro Montoya, a Latino, was re-elected president. Other officers elected were Mark Sullivan treasurer and Karen Armagost secretary.

BLK VEIL

Obituaries are published free of charge. They are accepted from funeral directors, families, lovers, friends and AIDS service organizations. Include your name, address and phone number for our records. We prefer to write the notice ourselves from the details you provide. If known, include the deceased's principal city of residence, correct legal name, any nicknames or pseudonyms by which they were known in the community, dates of birth and death as well as locations of birth and death. In addition, include all relevant biographical and professional data in both early and later life. Don't assume any detail or accomplishment is too small to include, Although, we edit notices to not more than seven lines, it is better to have too much information than too little. We can provide information gathering forms on request. Memorial display advertising is accepted at prevailing advertising rates.

MILTON BONDS, 30, a teacher and founder of the Washington Black Literary Society, died of respiratory failure Nov. 22 according to the *Washington Blade*. The Arkansas native held a bachelor's from Southern Illinois University and an master's from the University of the District of Columbia. Most recently he taught at Glen Ridge Elementary. Bonds worked with the Intergroup Minority Project AIDS Consortium and Trust and as a volunteer for the Whitman-Walker Outreach Program.

BRIAN MATTHEW DAY, born May 6, 1960 died Nov. 25 in his native Seattle from complications related to AIDS. After earning a degree from New York's Fashion Institute, he returned west to open a clothing store. He eventually moved to Puerto Rico, but returned six months later with his first opportunistic infection. Day worked with the ACT-UP/Seattle, the Northwest AIDS Foundation, the Governor's Task Force on AIDS and the Chicken Soup Brigade. He is survived by two sisters and other relatives.

JEFFREY THOMAS FRANKLIN died Dec. 28, at the age of 23, of complications related to AIDS. Franklin was a frequent speaker on AIDS and safer sex at churches, schools, colleges and a wide range of organizations in the Washington area. He is survived by his companion, Galan Meyer of Washington; and his mother, Mary Jackson; stepfather, Reginald Jackson; two sisters, Iris and Shawna; and brother, Reginald Dean, Jr., all of Springfield, Va.

LYNDON ELTON GREEN died Dec. 13 in Washington of complications related to AIDS according to the *Washington Blade*. He was 25. The Meckelburg County, Va. native studied physical education at North Carolina Central University and Hampton University. He came to Washington in the mid-1980s and worked for Mrs. Field's Cookies until June 1989. He began work as a Riggs Bank teller this past February. He is survived by companion Michael Boerner, his parents, four sisters and three brothers.

JAMES HARP died from complications related to AIDS on Dec. 27, at St. Vincent's Medical Center in Los Angeles. Born in Arkansas June 13, 1939, Harp was a resident of Los Angeles for 35 years. He was employed in the Smokehouse restaurant for over 30 years, first in Encino, then Burbank as a waiter. Services were held Jan. 5 at the First A.M.E. Church where he was a member and sang in the choir. He is survived by several sisters and brothers and close friends.

HENRY DARNELL LEWIS, a federal attorney and playwright, died Nov. 22 at age 34 of complications related to AIDS according to the *Washington Blade*. Lewis graduated from Morgan State and earned a law degree from Washington and Lee University before joining the Office of Special Counsel in Washington. Two of his plays were produced in the 1987 and 1989 Washington Theater Festival. His book, *Mean Spell,* won a D.C. Commission on Arts award. Lewis is survived by his companion, Larry McPherson.

JOSEPH JAMES STERLING, JR. died Oct. 30, the day after his 46th birthday according to *Update*. A Los Angeles native, Sterling attended Los Angeles City College for two years studying business management. From 1980 to 1985 he worked for Payco Coast Retail Merchants and Credit moving to Select Television in Marina Del Rey. Most recently he had been with Catalina Sportswear and Apple One Temporary Agency. He is survived by lover Nathaniel Foster, sisters Marilyn and Lula, and brothers S.T. and Larry.

EMORY WARBER STEWART III died Dec. 7 from complications associated with AIDS according to the *Washington Blade*. He was 31. A native of Manassas, Va., Stewart studied at Northern Virginia Community College in Manassas. In 1987, he began work at Pier 1 Imports and was later promoted to manager. He was also a member of First Baptist Church in Manassas. He leaves his life companion, Ron Lorentzen; his parents, Virgie and Emory C. Stewart; two brothers, Richard Stewart; and Cecil Terrell.

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I was right.

Now as if the mental and physical drain of AIDS isn't enough, there's also the financial drain. So we provide essentials like food, clothing, and dental services to those in critical need.

Of course, the fight against AIDS isn't only between the disease and those who have it.

It's everyone's problem.

That's why we promote public awareness. Try to educate those who feel they don't need it. And demand that the Government of the United States approach AIDS just as it does every other major disease.

At AIDS Project Los Angeles, people discover courage and strength they didn't know they had. But before we can help, they have to do one simple thing. Call 213-962-1600 and talk to someone who cares.

Having AIDS can be a frightening experience, which is all the more reason it shouldn't be a lonely experience.

AIDS PROJECT LOS ANGELES

AIDS Project Los Angeles would like to gratefully thank the following contributors. Concept and design by Chiat/Day/Mojo, Jim Weinstein, Doug Schumacher and Rich Bess. Production by David Nickel, Patti Rawlins, Tony Jenson, Joe's Type Shop and Reproduction Quality Services. Media Planning by Media Ranch.

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BLK ARTS

THEATER

'Nubian' Shows Black Gay Bias

The Christopher Theatre Company of Washington, D.C. is presenting its first production, *Nubian Mythology*, by Carl Sumter at the Black Box Theatre in the Stables Art Center.

The hostility between the characters, black on black, black against white, brother against brother, is real to life, and thorough if not lengthy. Sumter is unerring in his indicting of society's homophobia, visible by the reactions of the largely straight, black audiences.

The center of the play is a family picnic in Dupont Circle. Among the family, friends and strangers in attendance are a black gay man, his white lover, his hostile brother, and a homeless man who doubles as the play's narrator.

DANCE MUSIC REVIEWS

Motown Moves into the 90s

By D.J. Marius

As a black music pioneer in the 60's, Motown rose to become a major power in the music industry. The label turned out hit after hit with a stunning consistency previously unheard of, especially as far as black music was concerned. Diana Ross and the Supremes, the Temptations, Smokey Robinson and the Miracles, "Little" Stevie Wonder, the Four Tops, Marvin Gaye—these were but a small portion of the legendary roster of African-American performers who made the world notice black music.

Having just celebrated its 30th anniversary, Motown is positioning itself to continue its power base as a cornerstone of black music. A look at a few recent Motown releases shows the label's foresight toward the 90s.

In the early 80s, the trio **Blaze** was an independent label band with a strong house sound. As teenagers in Newark, New Jersey, they would take the train into Manhattan to hang out at the legendary multi-racial, multi-sexual club, the Paradise Garage. This initial exposure to club music shaped the direction of the group, and has influenced a distinguished history of songwriting and production work. With an average age of 23, the group has remixed and produced records for Diana Ross, Kool and the Gang, Mica Paris, Dee C. Lee, Babyface and Isaac Hayes, among others.

Their Motown debut LP *25 Years Later* (MOTC-6301) brings them much closer to the R&B mainstream. The album evokes a strong feeling of social consciousness, and on side one, examines the history of black music. "I Wonder" strongly echoes the passion and feeling of Marvin Gaye's "What's Goin On." "All That I Should Know" bears a distinct resemblance to Stevie Wonder's earlier work. On side two the 90s arrive, packing the house beats and club music Blaze is known for. Says group leader Kevin Hedge, "Basically, the first side is what you would expect from Blaze; the second side is not. In America, there is a problem with House music as such because, apart from New York, people are not into it yet. I want to take not just House music, but also roots of it to all of America, along with our social conscience and message."

The point of a musical history lesson is well taken, although it may have been a stronger lesson had the group not tried so hard to sound just like Stevie and Marvin. Their talent is apparent, and shines through on the album. The group should be commended for taking musical activism to a new level.

Breaking out for the first time are R&B hip-hoppers **Basic Black**. A dance band in the very funky tradition, these guys sound a lot like Guy. The similarity may be coincidental, or it may be because of their producer Gene Griffin, who often works closely with Guy front-man Teddy Riley.

Although the group's debut release, *It's A Man's Thang* (MOTC-6307), has a synthesizer-laden, programmed sound, it is solid and quite danceable. The lead singer on most cuts sounds very much like Guy lead singer Aaron Hall, a friend of the group.

The band covers its bases, with some very nice ballads ("Special Kind of Fool," "Baby Can We Talk"), and some up-tempo, slammin' party tracks, the best of which is "Nothin' But a Party." One gets the feeling this album would be a good choice to put on at a house party. Riding the social consciousness tip, the cut "Stoopid" uses a new jazz swing beat and rappers X-Caliber and CoCo to deliver its anti-drug, anti-gang message.

Motown has hit paydirt with **The Boys**. Their debut album, "Messages from the Boys," came out of nowhere and rose to platinum status (more than 1 million units sold) on the strength of two No. 1 singles, "Dial My Heart" and "Lucky Charm." Their second, self-titled release *The Boys* (MOTC-6302), backs up the fact that they are being positioned to reign as the premier youth-oriented black group of the 90s.

It may just be bound to happen. The obvious comparison comes to mind: the Jackson Five. The Boys always gladly acknowledge being avid Jackson fans. To solidify this comparison, the Boys offer up a great cover of "Got To Be There," complete with harmonies and string arrangements like the old days. The Abdulsamad brothers—Bilal, Tajh, Hakeem and Khiry—structure the album as a tribute to their fans of all ages, and to their influences, musical and otherwise.

The two cuts that slam hardest, "Funny" and "SMPTE," are jammin' dance cuts in all their keyboard-thumping, drum-programming glory. "SMPTE" (pronounced "Simpty") refers to a time-coding system used in most modern recording studios, and the song states how the Boys always preferred instruments and studio equipment to regular toys. "Thanx for the Funk" brings Parliament-inspired hip-hop into the picture, and the Boys even get into some house music with the album's last track "The Bush."

Perhaps the best dance

album of the bunch comes from **Today**. Teddy Riley's producing genius surfaced on their first album *Tbday.* Touring with MC Hammer, Guy and Salt-N-Pepa gave the band much needed exposure and name recognition around the country. All four members being writers/producers/perfectionists in their own right, they went back into the studio. Working with new producers this time around, they crafted *Tbday: The New Formula.* "The last album was for a younger crowd," the group states, "but this LP is for people of all ages. We're really pleased with the results."

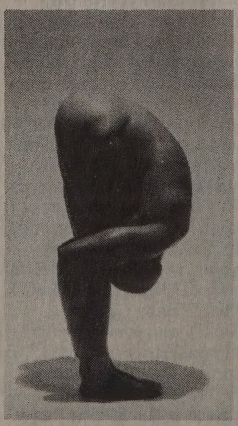
So are we. The slammer "I've Got the Feeling" (produced by Dr. Freeze—aka Bell, Biv, DeVoe) opens the first side of upbeat tracks. A remix of "Why You Get Funky On Me," one of the biggest hits of the summer from the *House Party* soundtrack, fits right into the party atmosphere that surrounds this first side. Lead singer Lee "Bubba" Drakeford has a fantastic voice, and not only uses it on uptempo jams, but stretches it out, with great results, on ballads "Trying to Get Over You" and "I Wanna Come Back Home," both co-written and produced by Nat Adderly, Jr. I listened to the cassette, but the CD has two bonus tracks, "No Need to Worry" and "My Happiness."

For those who didn't get a chance to catch Tbday on the Motortown Revue tour of Motown's brightest young performers (including Rich Nice, Milira, the Good Girls, the Boys and MC Trouble), this album is a must for your collection.

On the smoothed-out tip, check out the newest one from former Manhattans lead singer **Gerald Alston**. If you remember the R&B classics "Shining Star" and "Kiss and "Say Goodbye," you've heard this great soul balladeer. He continues that tradition nicely on his second Motown release, *Open Invitation* (MOTC-6298).

Primarily an album of love songs, Alston's smooth, confident approach appeals to all types of listeners. The ballads, however, make a stronger statement, and better express the beauty of Alston's voice. Gerald Albright's easy, flowing saxophone style shows up on four of the album's tracks, and is a perfect match with Alston's silky vocals. Comparisons with Nat King Cole, Sarah Vaughn and Sam Cooke are not too far off base, as this classy crooner merges traditional R&B styles with his modern soul sound.

Standouts on the album include the first single, "Slow Motion," which is accompanied by a sexy video starring Renee Tenison, *Playboy*'s first black Playmate of the Year. The single is getting a lot of radio airplay, and should give vital support to this album. Other prime cuts include "Getting Back Into Love" and "Still In Love."



One of the three shots in the 1991 AIDS Benefit Calendar that feature a black model. By mail (Box 34012, San Diego 92163) and at bookstores. Photo by Jeff Palmer.

MUSIC NEWS

Lawsuits, Drugs, Death and Fakery

By Ron Smith

A California Superior Court has ruled in favor of Rene Moore's breach-of-contract lawsuit against his former singing partner, Angela Winbush. Winbush was accused of using Rene & Angela material on an Isley Brothers album that she produced, with no assistance from Moore. Winbush has been ordered to pay Moore $200,000 in damages. Winbush says she will appeal. The judge threw out a countersuit from Winbush claiming that Moore physically abused her, since she could not prove it.

In her book, *My Family The Jacksons,* Katherine Jackson reveals that James DeBarge had "a serious drug problem," and that is mainly why she and the rest of the family were opposed to Janet marrying the singer. She also says that at one point Rebbie, Latoya and Janet had formed a trio, but disbanded because they could not agree on who should be the lead singer. Plus Rebbie and Latoya had problems getting along.

Al B. Sure! says he knows people are going to speculate about there being something going on between himself and Diana Ross, because of the duet they do on his latest album. (Would we really think that?)

Ronnie Dyson, who sang "Aquarius" in the musical *Hair* and had several hits in the 70s; died in a nursing home in Philadelphia at the age of 40. The nursing home will not reveal the cause of death, but according to a family friend, drugs had just taken their toll on his body. He was in such bad shape that his mother died of cancer last month and he wasn't even aware of it, says the friend.

With all the commotion over Marvin Gaye finally getting a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, it practically went unnoticed that Nancy Wilson had also received one. Congratulations Nancy, you deserve it. Also receiving stars recently: Arsenio Hall and LeVar Burton.

Looks like Ralph Tresvant has joined his new-edition buddies Bobby Brown, Bell Biv Devoe and Johnny Gill with successful solo projects. Ralph's single "Sensitivity" is in the top ten on the Billboard pop chart and went to number one on the R&B chart.

Martha Wash, formerly of the Weather Girls, has signed an eight-album deal with RCA Records as part of a settlement over the fact that she is the voice behind Black Box's hit "Everybody Everybody" and the group Seduction.

An interesting bit of trivia: did you know that The Miracles' all-time bestselling single was recorded after Smokey Robinson left the group? The song is "Love Machine," recorded with Billy Griffin (Smokey's replacement). It's a good song, but when I think of the Miracles, "The Tracks of My Tears" and "Ooo Baby Baby" will come to mind first.

I wonder if Milli Vanilli's hair is fake too?

Top ten soul singles 10 years ago this month: 1. "Celebration" (Kool & the Gang), 2. "Love T.K.O.'d" (Teddy Pendergrass), 3. "Master Blaster" (Stevie Wonder), 4. "Keep It Hot" (Cameo), 5. "Lovely One" (The Jacksons), 6. "Uptown" (Prince), 7. "United Together" (Aretha Franklin), 8. "More Ounce To The Bounce" (Zapp), 9. "Fantastic Voyage" (Lakeside), 10. "When We Get Married" (Larry Graham).

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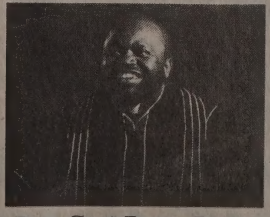

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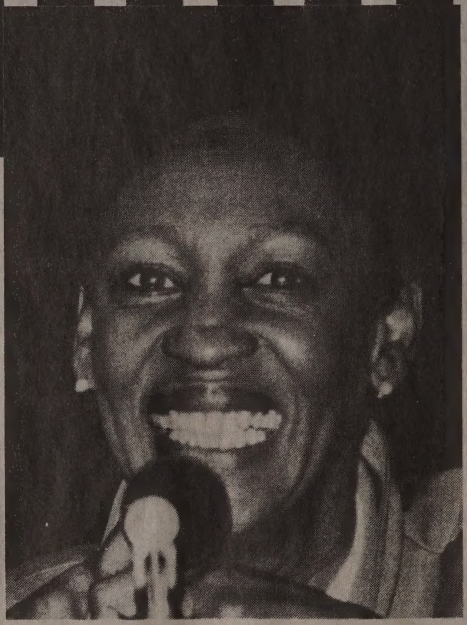
See Ya Soon Dear Brothers

TRIBUTE

MINORITY AIDS PROJECT



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and her fight for equal rights for gay and lesbian people

Sunday, February 17, 1991 at 2 p.m.

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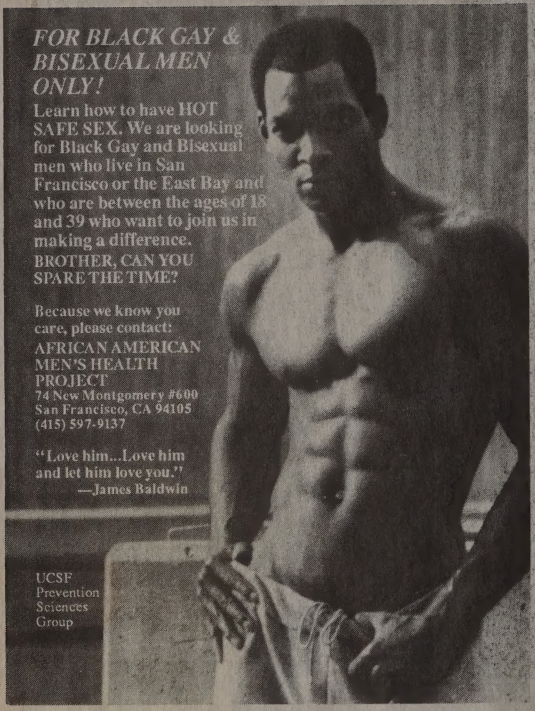
AIDS BENEFIT LUNCHEON

Read My Lips

by Preston G. Guider

Three African-Americans were included in *Frontier*'s "People of the Year: 10 Who Made a Difference." Catch One's one and only **Jewel Thaïs-Williams,** South African activist **Tseko Simon Nikoli** and openly gay Army sergeant **Perry Watkins**...In case you thought the reason **Warren Sims** has had a 24-hour, 7-day-a-week smile on his face recently was the second annual **Gay and Lesbian Cultural Festival,** we'd like to offer another reason: **Reginald Hosea.** Reg-E, as the strikingly handsome artist is known, has been Sims's constant companion...**Spellman College** was the site of a two-hour panel discussion on sexuality, religion, family and homophobia in the black community recently. Participating organizations included Atlanta's **AALGA,** a student bisexual and lesbian organization called **Alternatives** and Spellman's Counseling Services Dept...**Sunil Gupta,** co-editor of *Estatic Antibodies,* spoke Nov. 8 in Toronto on the emergence of black lesbian and gay photography in the United Kingdom ...Michael Black accepted the Marquis Walker Humanitarian Award posthumously given to his lover **Walter Bland** at AALGA's third annual Banquet in November. Over 100 attended the ceremony held at Carbo's Cafe in Buckhead... **Mickey Fleming,** author of *About Courage,* participated in a P-FLAG workshop on coming out in November...**Sacul L'Adnbre's** *Lesbfriends,* "a lesbian situational comedy," was performed Nov. 28 with **Gwendolyn Bishop, Mina Newman, Nia Nonzamo** and **Tina Wilson.** It was produced by the **Sapphire Theatre Co.,** a Bay Area theater group for wimmin of color...Did you hear about **Robert Brick's** battle for reparations for the descendants of slaves? Yes, we have our forty acres stakes out, thank you, plus 130 years back interest, which reminds us, shouldn't we get *more* reparations for all the discrimination heaped on us as lesbians and gay men? We wonder if that might be a topic for the National Black confab in February...Speaking of the conference, **Randy Cochran** will be there facilitating a workshop called "Black, Male and Sexy." We guess he should know...**Tony Gartrell** is directing (again) a multiracial cast in *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf* at San Francisco's Zephyr Theatre...In a recent issue of the *Capital Spotlight,* a D.C. straight black newspaper, **Valencia Mohammed** warned that the **D.C. Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance** was involved in a public hearing to discuss the selection of the next D.C. school board superintendent. "Nowhere in the electoral process does a chosen special sexual lifestyle warrant preferential treatment or recognition," she wrote. "We are opposed to homophobic violence," she continued. "However, we don't want our schools used as recruiting stations for deviant behavior!" Bu evidently the *Spotlight* is open to diverse points of view be cause black gay Republican **Leonard Green** is now writin a column for them called "Gay-O-Centricity." In his firs column, he calls for the mayor and council members to tak a 20 percent pay cut and donate the money to gay-relate causes...Meanwhile, his significant other, singer-songwrite **Steve Langley,** whose song, "Do What You Wanna D closed *Tongues Untied,* was all aglow after **Sweet Honey i the Rock** performed his "In This Land" at the group's 17 anniversary concert...*Tongues Untied,* meanwhile, h picked up another award. This one is from the **Los Angel Film Critics Association,** who gave **Marlon Riggs** its I dependent/Experimental Film award...In 1987 when *A So for My Brothers...Tick...Tick...Tick* was first produced, wasn't exactly gay playwriting's finest hour, but it was theater relevant to lesbians and gay men starved for their image across the footlights. And so **Bobby Smith,** who co-produced the play, which was adapted by **E. Lloyd Napier** from six hours of tapes by the late **Jerry Minor,** kept quiet about the technicalities of authorship. Now some five years later, he wants to set the record straight, saying the credit block should read "adapted from tapes by Jerry Minor." But E. Lloyd, who has been in theater for 20 years, stands by his work saying that authors always adapt and modify what has come before them, and that *A Song for My Brothers* has been copyrighted in his name. Although Bobby's version of the events has been independently confirmed, it would have been nice for this to have been settled behind closed doors, long ago. On the other hand, there's nothing like a little controversy to create audience interest. *A Song for My Brothers* will be presented as part of the African-American Gay and Lesbian Cultural Festival Sat., Feb. 9 at 2 p.m. Tickets are $10...**Rev. Carl Bean** of L.A.'s Minority AIDS Project joined **Rev. Joseph Lowery** and **Minister Louis Farrakhan** as among *Upscale* magazine's finalists for 1990 outstanding black minister...Kwanzaa celebrations took place in African-American lesbian and gay communities across the nation. In Los Angeles, **BMX** hosted a community celebration in honor of Ujima with members of the African-American Gay and Lesbian Cultural Alliance participating. The day before, BMX marched in the city's Kwanzaa Parade, the only gay group to do so...One of the larger Kwanzaa celebrations was held in New York, a joint undertaking of **MACT/NY, Bronx Lesbians United in Sisterhood, Gay Men of African Descent, African-American Wimmin United for Societal Change, Asian Pacific Islanders, the Boricua Gay and Lesbian Forum** and **Other Countries.** Where, pray tell, did all those people fit?...Other Countries, by the way, has released their schedule of activities *through June!* (No CPT for these folks.) Among the more interesting are a discussion of **Henry Louis Gates, Jr.'s** *The Signifying Monkey* set for Feb. 2 and **Gale Jackson** speaking on "the griot tradition as a tool of empowerment...We thought BBD stood for **Bell Biv Devoe,** but we've been told it stands for something more personal. We'd be just as comfortable seeing either one...**Dr. John Bush,** a former black co-chair of **NABWMT** and pro- [redacted] Massachusetts Universi- [redacted] 10th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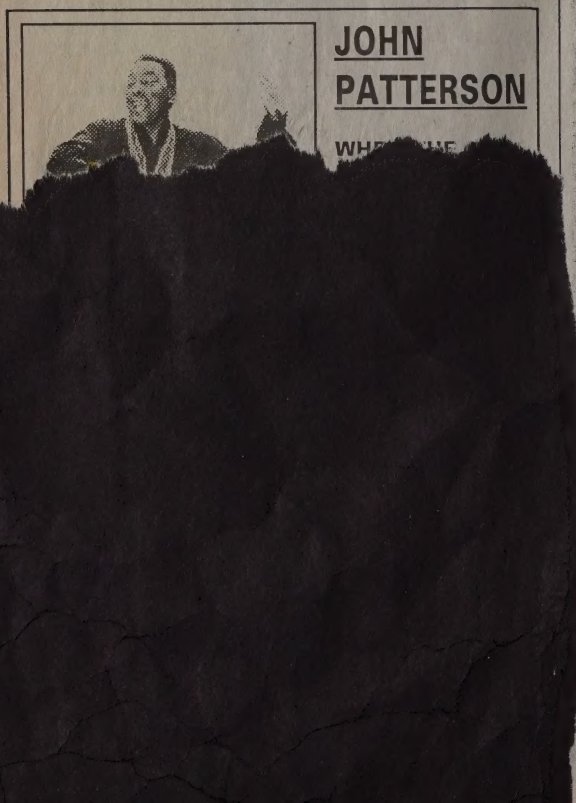


anniversary the weekend of Nov. 2. **Don Moses,** the black co-chair of **BWMT/Youngstown** received the group's Good Neighbor certificate...**BWMT/Chicago** also held it's 10th Nov. 18. Keynote speaker **Dr. Richard McDonald** spared no details about men who dab in unsafe sex and know better. **Cary Jones** and **Bob Schwartz,** who were honored with the Ernest Johnson Memorial award "for dedication to the growth, spirit and purpose of BWMT/Chicago" demonstrated part of that purpose by celebrating their first year together... BWMT/Chicago is also a member of the 12 organizations throwing the fifth annual **Have a Heart Dance** at the Belmont Hotel Feb. 16...The film *House Party,* which contains an anti-gay rap song was nominated for an **NAACP** Image Award as best film. What image, we wonder, are they getting the award for? *House Party 2,* by the way, is in pre-production scheduled for a Christmas release. Once again, **Kid 'N Play** star, but the **Hudlin brothers** are apparently not involved. No problem, but make sure **Martin Lawrence** (who plays the DJ, Bilal) is back. Or better yet, just send him over the our house for a party...**Eartha Kitt** performed recently at the **Daisy Chain,** a gay club in Brixton, a London suburb ...**Tyrone Aiken** has launched **Ethof Dance** with performances scheduled for Feb. 8-10 at Spoke the Hub in Manhattan. The evening will also include poet **Craig G. Harris,** whose poetry is sharp, but whose tongue is sharper. Watching Craig read in Atlanta last February was like having a front row seat at a Gallagher show...bring your own seat belt ...And speaking of seat belts, hold on for this one. Chicagonative **Gene Cornelius,** who somehow manages simultaneously to be fiercely Afrocentric and the last Nordstom's queen *without contradiction,* has taken a detour across the color line. The blue-eyed fellow in question is **Bruce Hunt,** a professional video-maker, BLK volunteer and videoman for the AAGLCA and the BGLLF. We wish them well, but predict it won't last...**Reginald T. Jackson's** *Sixtynine* about a black gay actor and a well-to-do WASP divorcee who meet at a theater party runs Jan. 4-19...**Chacka** was crowned Miss Gay Teenage San Diego recently...**John S. Patterson** appears at Highways Feb. 15-17 presenting a solo work, "When the Colored Band Foes Marchin' Down the Street"... **Claudette "Sexy DJ" Colbert** provided the sounds while ladies (of both persuasions) and gents (of both persuasions) strutted their stuff and outdid each other on the dance floor. They dined on shrimp cocktail and cheese balls, veggies and dip, meats daintily grasped on cocktail picks and washed down with a continuous flow of Martinelli's. (Fun can be sober.) It was the first Royal Starlight Ball hosted by the **Committed Couples Group,** the brainchild of **Rev. Victoria Lee-Owens** and spouse, **Shirley A. Owens.** Three duos were honored for improvement and gains made in their relationships...Later in the month, Sexy DJ appears as part of High Performance Hip-Hop House Party at Highways on Jan. 16...The folks who bring you the *Advocate* every two weeks, have come out with *allblack,* an African-American porno picture magazine with jackoff stories. Among the models our personal favorite is **Mark Taylor,** who bulges and stretches to all the right proportions in all the right places. But *allblack* also includes a woefully out-of-date resource list (for instance, BLK was included, but BMX wasn't) that inexplicably includes the following categories: support/social groups, publications, commercial erotica, AIDS information, prisoner resources and bars/clubs. *Prisoner resources?* We guess the Advocate is being unnecessarily upfront about where too many young black men happen to be...And finally, did you ever notice that **Paul** of the **Dutch Boys,** half of the DJ duo at **Club Bookies** in Detroit bears a striking resemblance to **Len Richardson** of New York's Other Countries? That means they're *both* hot!...Have fun and be careful. Remember, Preston's watching...

The Producers of Orange County's Gay and Lesbian Pride Celebration need your support! Orange County Pride (OCCP) strives to celebrate the spirit and accomplishments of Orange County's varied and Lesbian and Gay Community.

The first OCCP festival was held in Santa Ana's Centennial Park in August of 1989. Thanks to months of headline-grabbing controversy and homophobic accusations, advance publicity generated great attendance and success. The 1990 Celebration was staged on the campus of the University of California at Irvine.

- As before, the event was preceded by months of planning by our volunteer staff, but it produced little publicity and only about 3,500 attended.
- University officials have praised OCCP for an outstanding job and have said that they will welcome the 1991 Celebration back to the Campus and help promote it as part of their community outreach program.

We're asking you to join with us to help make a statement about our pride in ourselves and our community and make generous donations to help OCCP!

We will be here in 1991 with a visible display of unified pride. We need the entire Lesbian and Gay community to join us by contributing your energy, ideas, volunteer help and your donations to continue this tradition.

There are many opportunities available at OCCP.

We are currently seeking artists for poster and logo design, entertainers for fund raising events and volunteers for committee positions. Our celebration requires entertainers and submission from artists for the Art Expo. Volunteers are needed for the festival staff.

For information on how you may become involved, please call us at (714) 998-4498.

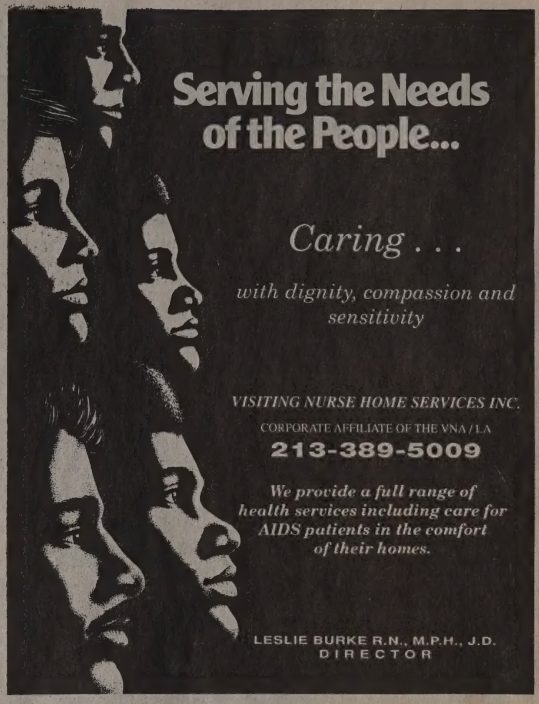
The Orange County Cultural Pride Celebration is the strongest demonstration of our commitment to move forward, be visible and show strength.

Together in Pride, we will return in 1991!

OCCP meets at 7:00 p.m., the third Monday of the month at the Metropolitan Community Church, 720 N. Spurgeon in Santa Ana. All are welcome and invited to attend.

Checks, made payable to OCCP, should be sent to: OCCP, P.O. Box 8167, Orange, California 92654.

Your contribution is deductible as allowed by law.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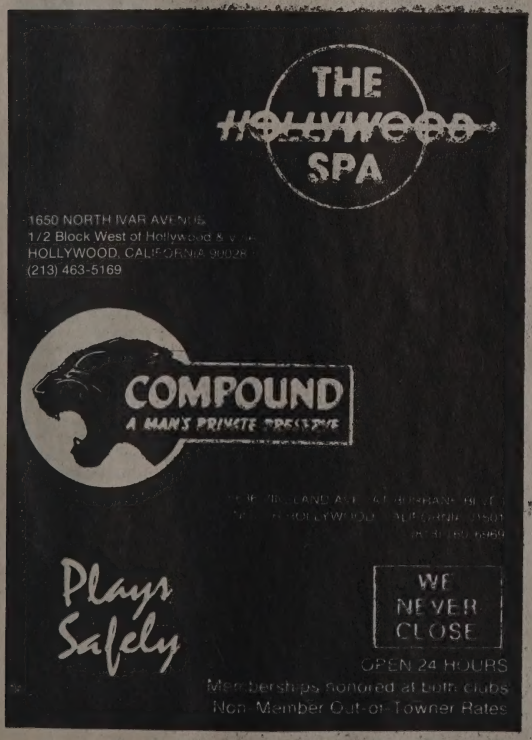

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If you are interested in receiving gifts (money) and making new friends, send a self-addressed envelope to: Karimu, Box 10372, Canoga Park, CA 91309 (26)

Opportunity for financial freedom if you have the courage to call. 708-216-9719. 24 hour. (37)

Audio plays, wild, erotic, uncensored. Phone sample, 24 hours, 21-601-6010. Adults only. (28)

University degrees without classes! Accredited bachelor's, master's, doctorates. Job/life experience recognized. Free revealing facts. Thorson-BLK3, Box 470886, Tulsa, OK 74147. (27)

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Hairy men/admirers. Bear/trappers! Nationwide explicit adlightings. Infopak $3.00: Hair, 59 West 10th, New York City 10011. (27)

Club Frottage, Networking group for safe (frottage/j.o.) men of color. Meetings held first and third Thursdays at 8 p.m. The Center, 208 W. 13th St., N.Y.C. For information call J. James Brown, 212-491-7228. (27)

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Professional Drug and Alcohol Help. Stop the anger. Stop the Depression. Stop the Abuse. For 24-hour help call 1-800-STOP-NOW (1-800-786-7669). The Open Quest Institute. Serving our community since 1978. (30)

Co-dependent? Small group for business or professional people. Insurance okay. Free interview. Jim Fain, MFCC. 213-276-4464. (26)

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Accounting Assistant. New opening for accounting assistant to perform data entry, typing, bank reconciliations. We also do filing and clerical duties. Must have basic bookkeeping skills, type 45 wpm and have a knowledge of computers. Previous accounting experience preferred. Salary $9-10 per hour D.O.E. The center is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer. Submit resume to: Director of Personnel, Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, 1213 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90038. (26)

Client Advocate, full time, to do crisis counseling and criminal justice advocacy for survivors of anti-lesbian/gay violence. BA or equivalent, 2 years counseling/case management experience. Salary DOE, excellent benefits. Send resume, cover letter and three references to: CUAV, 514 Castro, S.F., CA 94114 by Jan. 23, 1991. People of color and bilingual persons encouraged to apply. No phone calls. (26)

Community Outreach Worker. Conduct open "drop-in" groups, structure closed groups and individual counseling for black and Latina heterosexual and bisexual women with multiple partners, make community presentations to women at risk and do street outreach. Person must be bilingual (English/Spanish). Salary: $21,800. Apply to Minority AIDS Project, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036 or call Paul Davis 213-936-4949. An equal opporunity employer M/F. (26)

Conference Coordinator. Overall Responsibilities: Full time position reporting to the Deputy for Programs. The conference coordinator will be in charge of the logistics for Regional Skills Building Conference under Project HEAL and the National Skills Building Conference to be held in 1991 and the two National Public Policy Round Table discussions under the public policy education program. This position will coordinate the hotel accommodations, meeting space, program and schedule distribution as well as communications to and from the conference participants. In addition, the coordinator will prepare the conference evaluations. Specific Duties and Tasks: 1. Prepare a budget for each conference, including the expected revenue and expenses, including direct and indirect labor and overhead. 2. Coordinate the selection of scholarship recipients. 3. Select the site for each conference. 4. Communicate with the hotels as to accommodations, meeting space and food and beverage arrangements. 5. Distribute the conference information to the organizations on the NMAC mailing list. 6. Coordinate participation with other agencies in partnership with NMAC. Job Qualifications: College degree or equivalent in business administration or commensurate experience in conference logistics organization, minimum two years of experience in conference planning, including hotel accommodations, food and beverage, preparation of agendas and programs, participant registration and conference evaluation. Working knowledge of travel industry standards and procedures. Applicants must have demonstrated sensitivity to AIDS/HIV issues and excellent communication skills, be energetic and highly motivated. Women, people of color, HIV+ and physically challenged encouraged to apply. To apply send resume and cover letter to NMAC, 300 I St., N.E. #400, Washington, DC 20002, to the attention of Carlos Velez. All applications are held confidential. Salary: $27,000-$30,000 per year (depending on experience) plus benefits. (26)

Development Assistant. Assists the Development Director in running the development program and managing the development office. Serves as primary administrative and clerical support for the Development Director. Reports directly to the Development Director. Supervises volunteers, facilitates communication between the Los Angeles and San Francisco NGRA staff, and works closely with the San Francisco Administrator. Has initial contact with the general public via the phone and front office. Major Activities: 1. Primary reception coverage—phone/walk-in; 2. Oversee local volunteer program, including recruitment, training, supervision and retention; 3. Purchase and maintain Los Angeles office supplies, equipment and furniture; 4. Provide administrative and clerical support for the Development Director; 5. Process fundraising campaign returns and reports; 6. Prepare daily bank deposits and income summaries; 7. Batch source material; 8. Oversee donor acknowledgement program logistics; 9. Prepare monthly pledge program reminders to donors; 10. Maintain campaign summary files; 11. Data processing for capital fundraising program. Background: Bachelor's degree. Skills: 1. Well-organized, detail oriented, works with numbers accurately; 2. Strong interpersonal skills; 3. Moderate computer and typing skills, including proficiency with Mircosoft Word and willingness to train on NGRA programs; 4. a background in office systems, management and non-profit development preferred; 5. Strong commitment to civil rights for gays, lesbians, and people with HIV disease. Salary: $22,000-$26,000 (depending on experience). Location: Los Angeles. Starting Date: Immediately. Early applications are strongly encouraged. Search will continue until suitable candidate is hired. To apply please send cover letter, resume and references to: National Gay Rights Advocates, Development Assistant Search, 8901 Melrose Ave. #220, Los Angeles, CA 90069. National Gay Rights Advocates is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer. Lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, women, persons of color, and/or bilingual/bicultural individuals are strongly encouraged to apply. (26)

Director of Client Services: Overall responsibilities: Full time position reporting to the executive director, responsibility for general and specific, planning, management, grant writing, and programmatic activities of the MAP department of client services. Responsibilities include but are not limited to general client services program oversight; supervision of client service staff and consultants; management of program and individual project expenses; and program coordination with public and private agencies, funders and other MAP departments. In addition this position involves advocacy to city, county, state and federal agencies for the service needs of PWAs/PWARCs, HIV positives and their loved ones...Specific Duties and Tasks...Provide general oversight for all MAP client service programs and activities, including but not limited to case management services, in-home care, housing services, practical and psychosocial support, as well as volunteer services...Provide supervision and direction to client service staff and consultants. Establish and monitor time frames and deadlines for the completion of program tasks...Provide direction and focus for MAP on issues of client services and needs by actively participating in agency planning efforts...Perform project director responsibilities for all client service contracts and grants including but not limited to communication with contract officer(s) and the submission of required reports ...Perform all other specific programmatic responsibilities and tasks assigned to the project director under contract and grant agreements involving the client services department...Monitor client services program overall and individual project expenses for compliance with budget and grant guidelines. Approve any purchase orders for program or project expenditures...Other activities, as directed, in support of the objectives and mission of the Client Services Department and the Minority AIDS Project...Job Qualifications: Applicants are required to hare: a MSW degree and a California state license (LCSW); two years of supervisory experience, preferably with a community based non-profit agency; demonstrated experience working in Black and Latino/a communities; sensitivity to issues of AIDS in racial and ethnic communities, and AIDS among Gay and bisexual Black and Latino men; grant management experience: and good writing skills. Applicants should be energetic and highly motivated. Bilingual skills, a plus...Salary Range: $34,000 to

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■ I am an adult of legal voting age and consent to the placing of my ad in BLK. I understand that the Blk Publishing Company is in no way responsible for any transactions between myself and any persons I contact through its publications.

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The Rules

■ Deadline: First Friday of the month of publication.

■ Ads received after deadline will appear in the following issue.

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■ **Rules and regulations.** *A word is any group of letters or numbers with a space on either side of it.* Free ads may run a maximum of three times, then must be renewed. We reserve the right to reject, rewrite or edit ads including those that advertise or solicit sexual acts considered unsafe by current AIDS criteria. Telephone numbers in ads must be verified prior to publication at a charge of $3 (within California $1). If a number has been previously verified by BLK, attach an ad containing the number to your new ad. Advertiser's complete name, address and authorizing signature must accompany ad. This information is confidential and will not appear in your ad.

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■ You may place your ad by telephone and charge it to Visa, MasterCard or American Express if your order totals $15 or more.

■ Call toll-free 800-TRUE-BLK anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Tell the computer which credit card you have, the card number, expiration date and what you want your ad to say.

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■ Completely free ads may only be placed by mail.

■ Ads that are not completely free may be paid by check, Visa, MasterCard or American Express. Do not send cash.

■ Send to: BLK Classifieds, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912.

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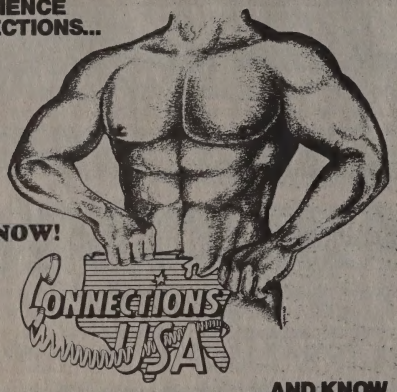

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Human Rights CAMPAIGN FUND

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Human Rights Campaign Fund, the nation's largest gay and lesbian political organization, is currently accepting resumes for the following five staff positions:

Lesbian Project Director
Individual will implement current lesbian issues project of integrating lesbian issues into the political, legislative and mobilization components of HRCF, providing education to the lesbian community regarding federal legislation and increasing lesbian participation in HRCF activities. Salary: high thirties

Development Director
Individual will be responsible for creating and implementing an annual $3 million plus fundraising plan including events, major donor solicitation, direct mail and special projects. Prior experience required. Salary: mid-forties.

Administrative Assistant
Individual shall provide administrative and other support, both clerical and substantive, for HRCF PAC, the Campaign Fund's political action committee. Salary: low twenties.

Civil Rights Researcher
Individual will work with the legislative Department to secure passage of the Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Bill by building documentation of discrimination against gay and lesbian Americans. Salary: low twenties.

West Coast Canvass Coordinator
Individual will increase participation in SPEAK OUT, the Campaign Fund's constituent pressure program. This position will requires direct canvassing and supervision of large teams of volunteer canvassers at gay and lesbian events. This position will be based in San Francisco. Salary: low twenties.

All positions include health, life and disability insurance. Deadline for application is Feb. 1. To apply, please write to NEW POSITIONS, Human Rights Campaign Fund, 1012 14th St, NW, Suite 607, Washington, DC 20005. Include cover letter, resume and writing sample. HRCF also operates an on-going internship program that offers stipended positions in six departments. For job descriptions or information on the internship program, please call Anne Thiesen at 202-628-4160.

HRCF encourages women, people of color and differently abled individuals to apply.

$38,000. Application deadline: Open until filled. How to apply: Call or write the Minority AIDS Project for an application at 5149 West Jefferson, Los Angeles, CA 90016, (213) 936-4949. Women, People of Color, HIV+ and physically challenged encouraged to apply. (27)

Director of Education: Overall responsibilities: Full time position reporting to the executive director. Responsibility for general and specific, planning, management, grant writing, and programmatic activities of the MAP Department of Education. Responsibilities include but are not limited to general education program oversight; supervision of education departments staff and consultants; management of program and individual project expenses: and program coordination with public and private agencies, funders and other MAP departments. In addition this position involves advocacy to city, county, state and federal agencies for the education prevention needs within racial and ethnic minority communities of Los Angeles...Specific Duties and Tasks ...Provide supervision and direction to education department staff and consultants. Establish and monitor time frames and deadlines for the completion of program tasks...Provide direction and focus for MAP on issues of AIDS education and prevention by actively participating in agency planning efforts...Perform project director responsibilities for all education department contracts and grants including but not limited to communication with contract officer(s) and the submission of required reports...Perform all other specific programmatic responsibilities and tasks assigned to the project director under contract and grant agreements involving the education department...Monitor education department overall program, and individual project expenses for compliance with budget and grant guidelines. Approve any purchase orders for program or project expenditures...Other activities, as directed, in support of the objectives and mission of the education department and the Minority AIDS Project...Job Qualifications: Applicants are required to have: a Masters of Public Health degree and/or commensurate health education background and job experience; two years of supervisory experience; Preferably with a community based nonprofit agency; demonstrated experience working in Black and Latino/a communities; sensitivity to issues of AIDS in racial and ethnic communities, and AIDS among Gay and bisexual Black and Latino men; grant #management experience; and good writing skills. Applicants should be energetic and highly motivated. Bilingual skills a plus...Salary: $34,000 to $36,000. Application Deadline: Open until filled. How to apply: Call or write the Minority AIDS Project for an application at 5149 West Jefferson, Los Angeles, CA, 90016, (213) 936-4949. Women, People of Color, HIV+ and physically challenged encouraged to apply. (27)

Editor/Assistant for adult all-black magazine. Full or part-time. Must be familiar with Macintosh (Pagemaker or QuarkX-Press). Send résumé to BFP, Box 42628, Los Angeles, CA 90050. (30)

Hotline Coordinator, part time (20 hours). Train and supervise volunteers for night/weekend crisis line, provide backup to staff and volunteers on-line. Peer counseling experience, knowledge of issues affecting survivors of domestic and anti-lesbian/gay violence required. Benefits. Resume, cover letter and three references to: CUAV, 514 Castro, S.F., CA 94114 by Jan. 23, 1991. People of color and bilingual persons encouraged to apply. No phone calls. (26)

Office Manager, $20-22K, proven skills in office management, computer input and retreival, filing and record-keeping systems, oral and written communication. Background and training in cross-cultural interaction with persons with HIV disease. Call between Jan. 22-31, 1991 at 213-295-2687 for appointment. Ask for Mark. (26)

Prevention/Outreach Specialist. The Alcoholism Center for Women is looking for a bilingual (Spanish/English), bicultural Prevention/Outreach Specialist to join Lapis, its program for Latina and other Lesbians of Color. The successful candidate will show a demonstrated ability to organize, schedule and facilitate workshops, support groups and events for specialized audiences such as incest survivors and adult daughters of alcoholics. Strong writing skills, familiarity with newsletters, an established professional network and media contacts would be considered an asset. Please call Msindo Koff, Director of Prevention and Community Services at 213-381-7805. (26)

Program Administrator. Being Alive, People with HIV/AIDS Action Coalition, is seeking creative applicants for a position as Progam Administrator. The Program Administrator is responsible for coordination of Being Alive services in the followijng areas: newsletter, speakers' bureau, support groups, advocacy, peer support and social events, to report to Executive Director and Board. The main functions of the Program Adminsitrator are to insure that these programs are maintained and documented effectively and to provide support for the large complement of HIV+ volunteers. Salary is $20,000 annually. Being Alive was founded by PWAs in 1986 and is still the only organization consisting almost exclusively of people with HIV/AIDS. For this position, experience in management of volunteers and staff is important; personal experience with HIV is essential. Women and people of color are especially urged to apply. Resumes should be sent to Being Alive, 4222 Santa Monica Blvd., L.A., CA 90029. (26)

Teachers. School's out! The Gay and Lesbian Learning Center needs teachers for fun and informative classes for gay men and lesbians. Call with ideas. 213-960-1029. (26)

West Coast Canvass Coordinator. Human Rights Campaign Fund, national lesbian and gay political organization, seeks West Coast Canvass Coordinator. Responsibilities include building/developing our constituent mail program, Speak Out, through direct canvassing. Responsibilities will also include recruiting and supervising other individuals to coordinate canvassing events throughout the West Coast. Position will be

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based in the Bay Area and will travel extensively. Qualifications: outgoing, assertive, ability to work under pressure and have excellent communication skills. Previous canvass experience is beneficial but not required. Women and people of color are encouraged to apply. Send cover letter and resume to: HRCF Canvass Manager, 1012-14th St., N.W. #607, WDC 20005. (26)

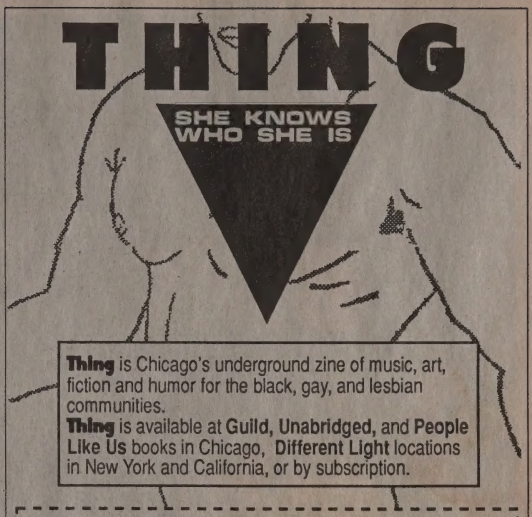
CALLS FOR SUBMISSION

Frameline, a non-profit lesbian and gay media arts organization, is now accepting entrires for the 15th San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, June 21-30, 1991. Entries are accepted in the foollowing formats: 35mm, 16mm, Super-8, 3/4" and 1/2" video (NTSC). The deadline is March 15, 1991. There is no entry fee, but return postage must accompany all entries. Frameline, Box 14792, San Francisco, CA 94114, 415-861-5245. (26)

Audition tapes are currently being sought from performers wishing to entertain at the 1991 Gay and Lesbian Pride Festival, June 22-23 in West Hollywood Park. Entertainment will be featured on Main stage as well as a newly designed Country Stage and at the disco dancing pavilion. Acts being sought include comedians, magicians, singers and dancers performing all varieties of entertainment such as country western, rock 'n roll and jazz. Disc jockeys are needed for the Disco Pavilion as well as for the Country Western Dance area. Entertainers and DJs should submit audition tapes (audio cassette or VHS video) to the Entertainment Committee, Christopher Street West/Los Angeles, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd. #109-24, West Hollywood, CA 90046. The deadline for submissions is April 1. (26)

Submissions wanted for 1991 Spinsters Book Company Lesbian Fiction Contest to find novel-length, well-crafted fiction that focuses on the lives of iesbians. Manuscripts will go through a judging process, with the best five going to a finals judge. The finals judge will change each year, the selection to reflect the diversity of writers we seek to publish. The winner (announced in August) will be given a contract to publish her novel with Spinsters and $2,000 in prize money (which is in addition to any royalties she earns on the book). The book will be published in the spring of 1992. Form: 1. Submissions must be postmarked no earlier than January 2 and no later than February 28 of 1991. 2. Mark clearly on the outside of the envelope: "Contest Submission." 3. Each entry must be a single work of fiction, 200 to 350 manuscript pages in length. No previously published works, works already accepted for publication or works being considered by other publishers may be submitted. 4. Manuscripts must be typewritten and double-spaced on 8-1/2 x 11 paper. Computer printouts must be of letter quality in dark ink. 5. Author's name cannot appear on the manuscript. Include a cover letter with the title of the work, your name, address and phone number. Judges will not see cover sheets. 6. Please do not send originals, as manuscripts will not be returned. Send a self-addressed, stamped postcard if you wish to be notified that your manuscript has arrived. 7. Please no phone calls. No revisions will be accepted during the judging process. Revisions for the winning manuscript will of course be considered and discussed during the editing process. Content: Content must be well-crafted fiction focusing, in some part, on the life or lives of lesbians. We wish to encourage fiction that treats lesbian lifestyles with the honesty and complexity they deserve. Announcement of Finalists and Winner: In June, five finalists will be notified by mail. Within one month these finalists must provide Spinsters Book Company with the following: a) a signed agreement that, if selected, the author will sign a contract with Spinsters; b) a signed agreement that, if selected, the author will be available for media interviews; and c) a black-and-white photograph suitable for media reproduction. Failure to provide any of the above will automatically disqualify contestant. In August, the winner and remaining finalists will be contacted by phone. All other contestants will be notified by mail. At that time the winner's name will be announced to major media, including lesbian and alternative media. Both the judge and the winner of the First Annual Lesbian Fiction Contest will be announced in September of 1990. Award: The winner of the Spinsters Lesbian Fiction Contest will receive a cash prize of $2,000 (which is not an advance against royalties but a sum above royalties) and a Spinsters standard contract to publish, which will incorporate Spinsters' standard royalty schedule. Send manuscripts to: Spinsters Book Company, Box 410687, San Francisco, CA 94141. (26)

Lesbian Herstory Archives has announced a call for submissions for an exhibit on African-American lesbians. Curators for "Keepin' On" are currently looking for materials that reflect the strength and creativity of the African-American lesbian community, past and present, private and public. Any material donated can be dedicated in memorial, or have restrictions placed on it as to availability to visitors to the Archives. The Archives can also arrange to copy materials and return originals, if desired. For this exhibit, they would like to gather items that can be shown in a public space and will be able to be included in the exhibit as it travels to other groups across the country on loan. The Archives is looking for "found images" (a photo from a yard sale, they 'look' gay, but who knows?...), family photos, historical pieces (old love letters, postcards, buttons, handcrafts), organization material (old "Azalea," meeting notes), artwork, or significant memorabilia. All materials must be received by mid-January to be considered for this show, but the Archives is happy to receive donations to the collection at any time. For more information, call Morgan Gwenwald at 212-874-7232 or mail submissions to LHA, Box 1258, New York, NY 10116. All materials will be added to the Archives collection, and as many as possible will be included in the show. The



Thing is Chicago's underground zine of music, art, fiction and humor for the black, gay, and lesbian communities.
Thing is available at **Guild, Unabridged,** and **People Like Us** books in Chicago, **Different Light** locations in New York and California, or by subscription.

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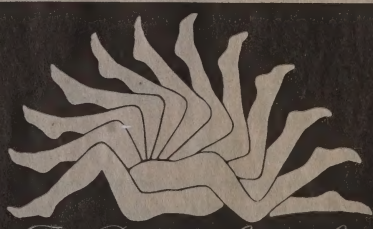

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Reactions

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8-10:30
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GMHC

first exhibit of this show will be in New York City at the Lesbian and Gay Community Center, and will open mid-February. That showing will be co-sponsored by the LGCSS National Museum of Lesbian and Gay History, and will run through mid-March. (26)

PLACES TO LIVE

House for rent. Looking for 2 or 3 responsible people to rent a large beautiful house in the Crenshaw-Baldwin Hills area. 2 large bedrooms, large dining room, living room, breakfast room, fireplace, large front and back yard. 2-car garage. Washer and dryer. $500 month. Price negotiable. 213-733-1681. Call anytime. (27)

The West Adams area. One bedroom apartment near Arlington and 37th Place in quiet, charming older triplex. Also ideal for seniors. $575 month. 213-938-5029. (26)

FOR SALE

Heat! Chicago black men in erotic photos! For sampler set send: Age (21+), signature, $10 to Zebra Studios, Box 138271, Chicago, IL 60613. (28)

True GB sex stories by white man. Mail SASE to 1800 Market #230. S.F. 94102. (27)

Gay magazines. Pack of 6 hot used magazines. Just $15. P&H, Inc. Send check or M.O. to Island Marketing, 127 S. Shore Dr., Island Lake, IL 60042, State you are 21. (37)

BLK T-shirts, sweatshirts, key tags, back issues, note cards, etc. now available mail order. Write: BLK Mail and Femail Store Catalog, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. Or call 800-TRUE-BLK, anytime 24 hours a day, seven days a week. (TF)

MASSEURS

Big, black and hairy, 38, 6'1", 175 lbs., lean, fit, top man, hung 8x6, cut, $50 min. in/out, ask for Mike. 213-874-9203. (29)

Randy Cochran. 818-997-3776. L.A.'s hot top black stud man. Hung huge, yet versatile. 28, 5'9", 160 lbs., with a tight smooth body. 24-hour, in-out sessions. $125-$200/hr. Video titles include "Black Attack," "Heatwaves," "Black Force" and many more. Visits are in person... Not associated with 976-WOLF. Safe sex okay. (29)

The Real McCoy. Very handsome Italian professional, 29, great body, offers custom-tailed 5-star bodywork to the discerning man. Atmosphere, style, technique and more. Quite simply...the best! 213-288-6800. (30)

Professional massage. You've seen the rest. Now deal with the best. Licensed/non-sexual massage. Call for appointment. 465-8147. Ask for Lamont. (26)

Attractive, well-built white guy, 29, 5'7", 135, offers deep, thorough relaxing massage to other in-shape guys, candelight, table. $40 in West Hollywood; $? out. Greg 213-288-6416. (26)

I'm Thomas, a tall, goodlooking white masseur near Plam Springs airport. Let me work on your stressed-out body and soul. 619-322-8077. (27)

Rugged Brazilian. Full body massage by a handsome 6'2", 205 lbs. bodybuilder. Legit with table. $50/in. $75/out. West Hollywood location. 24 hours. Tony, 213-274-8070. (26)

Stop. Handsome, bubble-butted athlete will rub you in all the right spots. Don't be duped by phony masseurs. Let my legit, certified hands do the walking on your stressed body. $40 in. $60 out. 95% recall. Call Bryan. 213-224-0243. 24 hours. (29)

WOMEN'S PERSONALS

BF, 26, student, not looking for romance through this ad. However, I would like to exchange postcards, short notes or long letters with women from all over. I live in Detroit. BLK Mailbox #107. (27)

Fluffy, feminine, early 40s, fun-loving, witty, sensitive, romantic, who appreciates nature, intimacy, looking for independent butch. I am 5'7½", sexy, plump. Seek friendship first. Who knows what can happen? BLK Mailbox #115. (28)

Professional GBF, 5'8", 160 lbs., 39 years, seeks fems with no drugs, alcohol or smoking. Prefer Christian lady. Let's give it a try for lasting relationship. I've been celibate for the past 3 years. For special times now. I love to please, and passion's my first name. Curious? BLK Mailbox #103. (26)

MEN'S PERSONALS INTERNATIONAL

Young, nice looking, passive Brazilian gay boy, 30 years old, golden skin, sweet smile, dreamful eyes, seeks masculine, active, black gay men, any age, for exchange of letters and possible coming meeting. Write in English soon. Diogo Fontenelle, rua Gustavo Sampaio, 301, 60.455 Fortaleza, Ceara, Brazil. (26)

Attractive Frenchman, 37, 5'11", 165 lbs., good hairy body, Greek active, well-traveled, multi-lingual, seeks very muscular, masculine, Greek passive, black or Puerto Rican friends, 19-35. Visitors welcome to Paris. Photo, please. BLK Mailbox #104. (26)

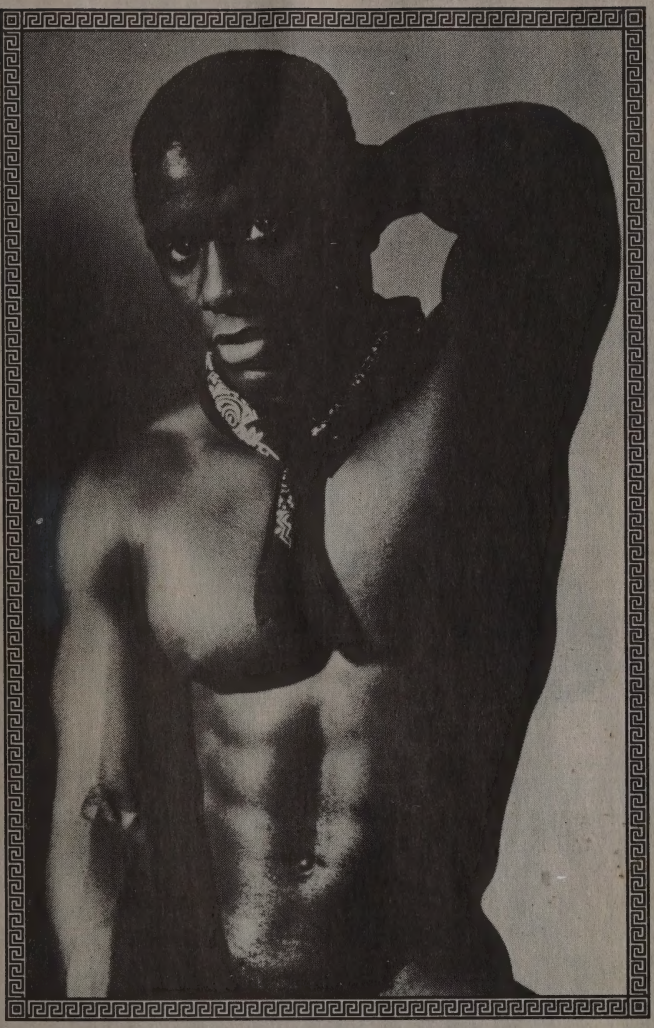
Dutch GWM, attractive, 36, wants to correspond with GBM and exchange photos. Tony Spoelstra, Box 4017, 8600 GA, Sneek, Holland. (26)

GWM, teddy-bear, seeks dominant BM tops for intimate friendship and fun. Doug, #103-4800 Arbutus, Vancouver, BC V6J 4A5. 604-263-3991. (TF)

MEN'S PERSONALS EASTERN U.S.

Attractive, educated black male, masculine, healthy, witty, funny, romantic, budding screenwriter, 5'9", 165 pounds, 32, nice brown bod, seeks a goodlooking, masculine, muscular, bearded, Sam

THE BODY BLACK 1991 CALENDAR



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(U.S. Dollars Only Please)		**TOTAL**	

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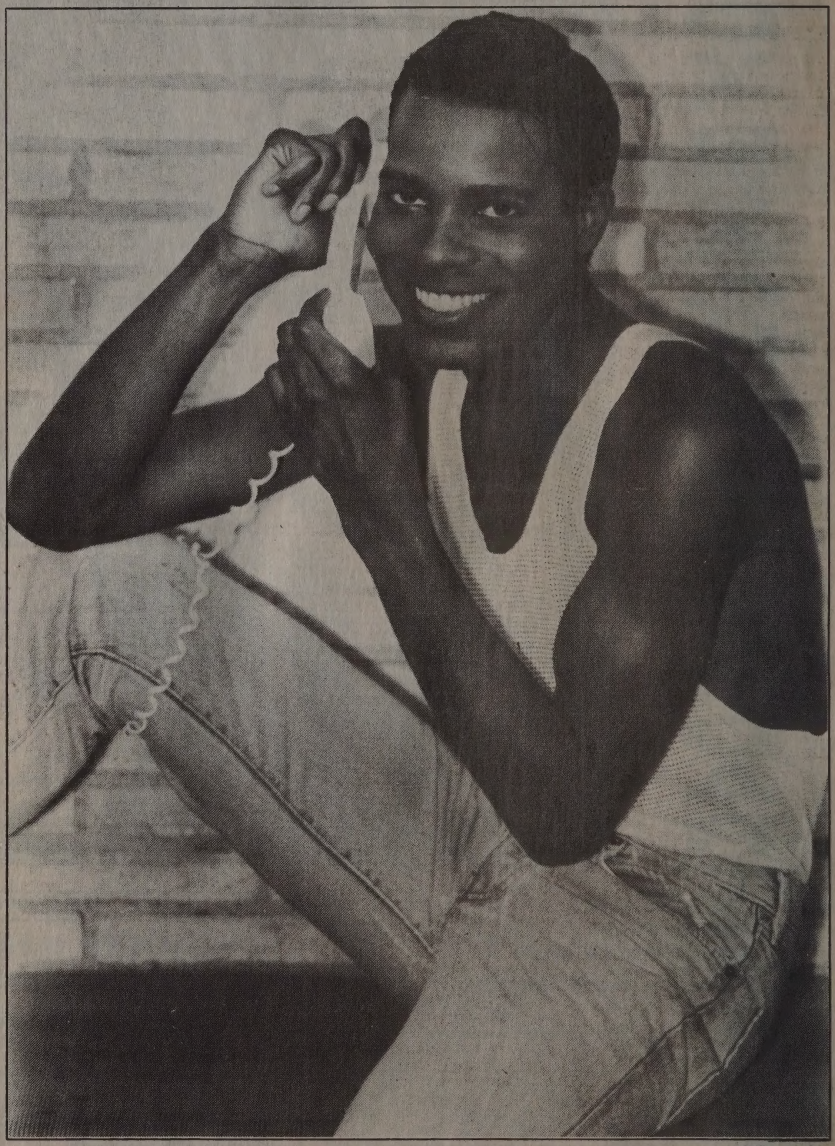

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Elliot or Bruce Willis type, professional, thirtysomething, creative, smart, who enjoys art, cinema, jazz, country weekends, snuggle bundling, cozy intimacy, cream and berries in bed, and delicious monogamy. Serious males only. Photo desired. Michael, Box 350, Richmond, Virginia 23202. (26)

Nice guy seeks same for friendship. This 50-year-old straight-acting WM is looking for a very masculine BM. Pleasant disposition, positive outlook and stability are important to me. Blue collar, thick endowment and trim build are pluses. Send detailed letter and photo of yourself to: BLK Mailbox #118 or call 301-779-6738. Pen pals welcome. Visitors to D.C. should call in advance of arrival. (29)

White male, middle age, enjoys the company and friendship of black males for dinner, theater and quiet times. John, Box 10042, Staten Island, NY 10310. (29)

Very lonely black gent, retired professional, 65, silver-haired, medium brown skin, very short, stocky (5'2", 155), shy, submissive, servile, plain looking, conversationalist, Fr/Act only; eagerly seeks male (only) friends, guests (blacks, Hispanics, any race/age) who are clean, intelligent, dominant, large, macho, Fr/Pass., verbally aggressive (no drugs, S/M), discreet. 212-681-0179 evenings only 9-11:30 p.m. Dave R., 930 Grand Concourse #6B, Bronx, N.Y. 10451. No inmates. (27)

GBM, masculine, intelligent seeks GM. Box 400665, Brooklyn, NY 11240. (28)

Muscular, hard runner's build. Hot, sensual, HIV-, hung, versatile. Smooth, upbeat professional GWM, 44, 5'5", 128 lbs., enjoying fitness, outdoors, humor, arts, work, romance, travel, seeks warm-spirited, firm-bodied, hot-blooded, creative-minded, healthy-habited GBM, 30-45, any location, for fun/friendship/relationship. Rick, Box 4102, Utica, NY 13504. (27)

Black male, 31, 190 lbs., stocky muscular build, seeks white males, 28-50, from Connecticut to Maine. I will be re-locating to Newport, R.I. June or July 1991. (27)

Black hung seeking black hung. Box 602, Huntsville, Alabama 35804. (28)

GBM, 20, seeks GWM for relationship. Box 1825, Rahway, NJ 07065. (28)

Masculine GBM wanted by goodlooking GBM, 24, for friendship/fun. Send letter/picture to: Boxholder, Box 2122, New York 10008-2122. (28)

NY, frottage (rubbing/j.o.), GPR/GMAD, social, safe, 20-40, frottage. 212-491-7228. (26)

Muscular, GBM, top, 52, seeks, muscular, intelligent, bottoms, all ages/races. J. Tree, Box 161, S.I., NY 10304. (26)

GWM, 39, 5'9", 165. NY City. Intelligent, energetic, low key, sexually alive, looking for similar man who is black, and who is interested in at least some of the following: music, hooks, jogging, gym, travel, movies, plays, museums, computers. Goal: relationship. Please send letter and photo (if possible). I'm serious! BLK Mailbox #116. (26)

Hot-assed white boy, 33, 5'9", 152, goodlooking and submissive, needs dominant, verbal, very masculine top-man, black or Latin, to make me service and worship you and your buddies. Will wear panties and be your bussyboy. Will write to real men anywhere, even in prison. Box 581, N.Y., N.Y. 10274. (26)

WM, 53, seeks thin, romantic, clean black male in Boston. BLK Mailbox #113. (28)

Congenial WM ISO BM. Box 284, Hartford, CT 06141-0284. (TF)

MEN'S PERSONALS CENTRAL U.S.

WM, 30, 5'7", 150 lbs., goodlooking, wants to be submissive sexually by goodlooking BM. I'm into leather, and like it wild and freaky. I have a bubble butt; you must have one too. No fats or femmes. We'll start as friends and see what develops. Detroit. 313-527-2965. (26)

Listen up, fellas. GBM, 30, 6'1", 210 lbs., masculine build, college football jock, top, professional. I'm looking for a GBM, Carribean, South American, Oriental bottom, ages 25 to 45. No fatties. I'm HIV-, willing to travel to East Coast, Midwest, Southeast U.S.A. Looking for that special someone who is interested in dining, movies, jazz, fitness. A bottom who wants to be with someone who wants to make you happy. Please send letter, photos. Nude photo will get even faster reply. Mail to BLK Mailbox #110. I am very passionate. I like to give a warm massage and rub you all over. (28)

GWM, 30s, blond, 5'9", 140 lbs., athletic, masculine, movies, travel, working out, etc. seeks athletic GBM or BiBM, under 40 years old, for safe, hot encounters. Top/bottom. 312-327-4895. (28)

Masculine black man wanted by masculine white 40s businessman. Your age/education are not important. I'm willing to help with education/employment/relocation. 2421 Pratt, Chicago 60645. (26)

GWM, 27, Brett Short, Box 30, 17-3/A, Pendleton, IN 46064 (26)

WM, 35, 6', 175, masculine, muscular and very athletic is seeking mature man, 36-55 for relationship. I am professionally employed, honest and non-promiscuous. You must be sincere, non-promiscuous and very masculine. Type of employment unimportant but I prefer a rugged, broad-shoulders type, 200 lbs. or more in weight. Beer gut okay. Box 88391, Indianapolis, IN 46208. (26)

MEN'S PERSONALS WESTERN U.S.

Hot white bottom seeks hot black tops. I'm 27, goodlooking, with a hot butt that knows how to open up and out. I travel Oregon, California often. Rich V., 19924 Aurora Ave. #141, North Seattle, WA 98133. (26)

BGM seeks WGM bear leather. Photo. Occupant, Box 1128. Reno, Nevada 89504. (26)

GWM, 55, 5'8", 150, attractive Utah professional, seeks GBM or Latin athlete, non-smoker, non-drinker, non-drug

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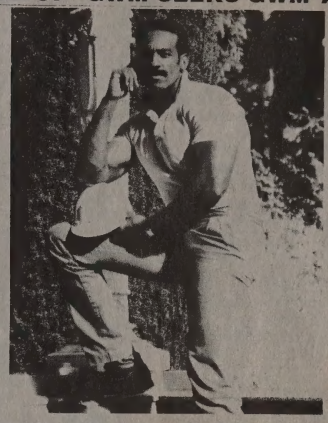

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user. If you fit this description and are seriously looking for a quality one-one relationship, call 801-364-2523. (32)

Northern California

Uncut man wanted. Hot blue-eyed blond HIV-man, 48, seeks uncut G/L guy wanting a rare honest loving man that will wine, dine and pump him. No bullshit. C.R., 751 Laurel Ave. #428, San Carlos, CA 94070. Must send picture/phone number. Otherwise, no reply. (26)

WM, slender, cute ass, mature, seeks hung BM. Boxholder A, Box 10436, Oakland, CA 94610. (26)

2 GWMs, 40 years old, seek heavy hung GBM for fun and safe sex. (Temecula area.) Reply to Occupant, Box 885, Winchester, CA 92396. (28)

Tall, trim white biker looking for black top with thick dick. Photo and phone to 930 Hayes #3, S.F., CA 94117. (27)

Cute GBM, 33, 150 lbs., 5'5", short but deep bottom seeks top masculine black bi or gay men for friendship and fun. Write Box 70571, Oakland, CA 94612. (26)

Goodlooking WM blows blacks. Travels. Box 3271, Daly City, CA 94015. (26)

White sucks, eats, drinks blacks. Bring beer. My place. 415-928-7736. (26)

Huge white hole eats dildos. Stretch it! Call hole. 415-585-8717. (28)

BGM looking for penpals. Emmette Mitchell, C-22649, L318, Box 2000, Vacaville, CA 95696-2000. (26)

GBM, 33, bottom, seeks top bi or GBM, discreet, bright. Box 70571, Oakland, CA 94612. (33)

San Diego Area

Beefy GWM stud seeking expert oral service. Call Larry, 619-324-8964. (28)

Palm Springs topman seeking playmates! Boxholder #3337, PS, CA 92263. (28)

European GM, 36, 5'6", 150 lbs., blond, blue, moustache, hairy, smoker, HIV+, healthy, intelligent and affectionate seeks friendship with mature, sincere black man 18+ to 50. Looks unimportant. BLK Mailbox #111. (26)

GWM, masculine, top man. Larry, Box 3337, Palm Springs, CA 92263. (28)

English GWM, 53, friends for correspondence or ? Desert, mountains, sun. Race, age, size immaterial. Photo with letter, please. G.J., Box 285, Adelanto, CA 92301. (26)

WM wants serious BM. Ted, 619-696-0980. (26)

Los Angeles Area

GBM, 60, 6', 175 lbs., interested in meeting GBM, 50 to 60. Have own transportation. Like bowling, some sports, going to very small parties. Do not like heavy drink or drugs. Prefer non-smoker. Like weekend trips and long distance travel. If sex, safe only. BLK Mailbox #109. (26)

Attractive BGM, 6'3", 215 lbs., with big juicy ass and thighs, you know the story, seeks black bi- or gay freaks, uh, tops, for hot and heavy sessions! Participants and voyeurs welcome. Rudy, Box 1684, L.A., CA 90078. (26)

BM seeks Asians, blacks and Latins with juicy butts or vaginas for good times. Call 213-465-8968. Serious callers only! (27)

Handsome black man, 35, 195#, well-built, who likes to workout with weights and jog on a daily basis, would like to meet honest, sincere person for friendship, black or white, who loves the outdoors and some sports. Rod, 213-733-1681. (27)

Bi cowboy, masculine, with tight lean smooth body and hot hard bubble butt (pussy ass), seeks big, muscular, Latins or bisexual GBM tops for safe rides. Sincere only. 213-438-1421. (26)

If you're a tall healthy GBM with a big cock, call Lee at 818-896-8890. This GL blond wants to please you. (26)

Commitment and values: B/M, 38, 5'11", 170, G/P, seeks an affectionate, tall, G/A white to black top man, 40-55, who lives 1-to-1, homelife, mountains and stability. Mel, Box 712427, L.A. 90071, 213-656-0258, ext. 22 (28)

Hot, sexy, intelligent freak! 25 year old 6'2", 170 lb. black brother, looking for someone who can work it! You: black/Puerto Rican, 21-30something, intelligent, goodlooking, tall, nice firm body, preferably uncut, who works in more ways than one! M.H., 213-296-2906(27)

Boxershorts, tattooed uncuts wanted by hunk. Box 39881, Los Angeles 90039-0881. (28)

Single Latin guy looking to meet someone honest and sincere. Attractive with a sense of humor. I'm normal and down to earth. You be too. Masculine types only. Call 818-890-0307. Keep trying. (26)

Cute blond bottom seeks giant buffed dominant men. 818-765-5132. (28)

Cruise mate wanted for R.S.V.P. French Canadian cruise. Me: super extra good-looking, 32 years, French Canadian, hung 9½x6½. Seek young man, same. 714-494-1114 (26)

Handsome, 41, GBM, professional, sexy, seeks young GBM or GWM, 22-28, for fun, hot times, romance, adventure and possible relationship. You should be attractive, well-built, intelligent, enjoy music, movies, dining out, romance, and long, slow, warm lovemaking in front of my fireplace. Photo/phone/letter a must. We've both been looking for each other. Now it's up to you. BLK Mailbox #114. (27)

Gay couple looking friends for fun. Box 19543. LAX 90019. (26)

Me: WM, 5'9", HIV+, hairy, 37. You: man of color, HIV+, versatile and sincere. Al, 213-665-1304. Thank you. (28)

WM, attractive, 31, 5'7", 135#, shoulder-length dark brown hair and eyes, gym-going, non-stereotypical, health-conscious, homebody, professional, independent, witty seeks similar white or black guy for uncomplicated pleasure. Photo/phone, descriptive letter to Jeff, c/o R.E., Box 3790, Beverly Hills, CA 90212. (26)

Oversexed, handsome, bisexual jock, worships foreskins. Box 4455, Terminal Annex, L.A. 90051-2455. Brother Ed. (26)

BBM, professional, seeks, TV/TS for ser relationship. Jim 213-876-7949. (28)

Sexy, white drag queen loves black dick (French/Greek). 415-461-4135. (28)

If your sex black tool is extra large (diameter and/or length) I challenge you to try me. I am 35 years old, Latino, 140 pounds, 5'7", bilingual. Letter and/or nude photo. Mr. V., Box 761326, Los Angeles, CA 90076. (31)

Trying again. Black male, 33 years old, attractive, looking for other males. Possible relationship. I'm 5'10", 150 lbs., a top wishing to find that special bottom. Must be 21-35 years old, attractive and black. No fats or fems. Call 213-469-5426. (26)

Let my tongue explore that hot black smooth, masculine body. Hungry, white, butch handsome male, 35, 175, 5'11" wants young very big, beefy, black, hung, straight-acting top dudes only. Black football player and construction worker types only. Check it out. Put my tongue to work. Box 46841, Los Angeles, CA 90046. (26)

GWM with a nice smile, a witty sense of humor and the boy next door charm and sexuality. Personable, hung and very goodlooking GBM, 6'2" and muscular, 198 lbs. yours for the asking. BLK Mailbox #112. (26)

Black male wanted to share home and life with. Me: Stable affectionate, white male, HIV neg., 50s, 6', 178 pounds. You: 30-45. Will 818-362-2022. (27)

Handsome, muscular GBM, financially independent. I enjoy polaying and watching sports, movies, dinners. Seek same for friendship, any race. Bottoms only. No games. Bob 818-798-4205(28)

White seeks black for friendship and more. GWM, 32, body-builder, seeks GBM, 27 to 40. Me: honest, energetic, intelligent, mature, passionate, loving, assertive but versatile, capable of compromise, professional, handsome, masculine, muscular, brown hair, blue eyes, 6'2", 195#, 8x5½", bubble-butt. You: similar man of excellent character, ready and capable of being an equal partner, 6'2" to 6'5", 9x6½+", dark and muscular and healthy. Call 619-322-6292. You won't be bored! (31)

Attractive and successful black writer seeks intelligent and articulate man of any race for travel, dating, romance. I am 30, 5'9", 140, swimmer. Call, leave message, 213-222-1115, or write Box 421145, Los Angeles, CA 90042. (29)

Black male, 35, 175 pounds, 5'8", bottom, wants to meet bodybuilder for mutual workouts. 818-913-1575. Race not important. (30)

Skip this ad for graphic descriptions. Certainly not an S not M either. Just a mutual bonding kind of guy. Okay a few stat are only fair: GBM, 29, some say beautiful, working artist, financially independent, using this option for meeting new friends. I have a vague preference for Hispanic, white or European men around my age with more knowledge of the written word than Gold's Gym. BLK Mailbox #108. (27)

Sincere GWM seeks GBM for relationship. I'm 31, 5'10", 135 lbs., HIV neg., bottom, smooth, intelligent and warm. You are 20-35, masculine, top, stable, professional and ready for a lover who is not into bars, smoke or head games. Box 91313, Long Beach, CA 90809. I can wait as long as it takes for the right man. (26)

Black dick seeks black bottoms/mouths. Box 191272, Los Angeles, 90019. (26)

Attractive, masculine, GBM looking for in-shape, muscular men to play racquetball or tennis with. Bobby 818-798-4205. (28)

BGM would like to meet BGM for relationship. Must be honest and into safer sex. Louis, 213-274-6272. (28)

Open casting call for GBM, 25-40, for romantic lead in on-going true-life sitcom/drama. Must be willing to play opposite GWM, 35. Interests include movies, theater, music, beaches and exploring L.A. nightlife. BLK Mailbox #105. (E)

Discreet professional black male seeks chubby, muscular, husky and bodybuilder-type black guys with super, super big things and super, super big bubble butts for friendship. 213-933-3098. (26)

Seeking advice for L.A. relocation. Box 9452, Elizabeth, NJ 07202-9992. (28)

Hot, raunchy, white wants domination. Box 86651, L.A., CA 90086. (28)

White dad, 50, professional artist, seeks black son, any age. Must be chemical free, muscular, obedient and growth-oriented. Leave message with name, number and qualifications. 213-481-1360. (26)

Blond, 6'4", 200, seeks hung boyish-looking top. Don. 213-281-6138. (26)

Handsome football player, built, dude, hung long and thick 11 x 7½, seeks other hot hung for safe good times. Drake 213-734-2042. (27)

Men of Color: To me, cocksucking is almost a sacrament. Allow me to accommodate your dick, giving you the service you dream about. Put me in my sling, put on a condom and slide my ass over your dickhead, and up and down your shaft. GWM, 39, 5'10", 195#, beard/moustache. 818-792-6758. (26)

Attractive GBM, HIV+, healthy, 5'7", 34, and appealing hunk, warm, loving and extremely affectionate, seeking a dominant and masculine GBM (fully equipped) with the same qualities. Muscles not important, height above 6'2" a+ (but not required). No queens, rude sissies and bar flies should dial my number. I'm seeking a serious 1-1 friendship/relationship. If you enjoy lots of affection, attention, beach, movies, exercise and romantic nights, call Jay 213-840-6398, leave your name and phone and I'll call you back. (26)

Hot blond butt for 21-30. Box 75441, L.A. 90075. (26)

GBM, 6', 200 lbs., 40, healthy HIV+, seeks other husky stocky versatile, masculine men for friendship and sex. 1064 Myra #141, Los Angeles, CA 90029(26)

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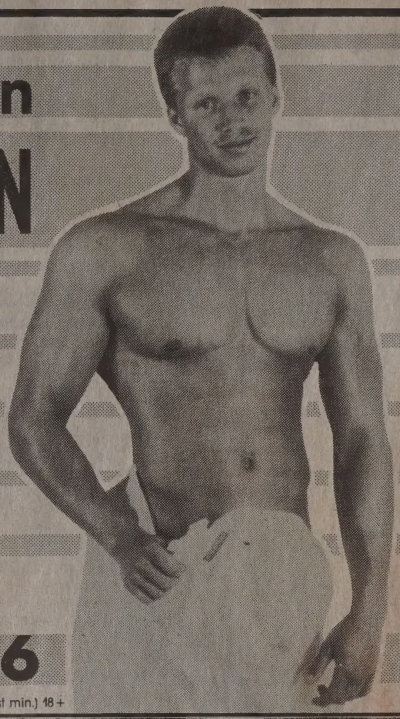

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THE NATIONAL BLACK LESBIAN AND GAY NEWSMAGAZINE

BLK

Young, Gifted and Fierce

Vol. 3, No. 8
Whole No. 33
August 1991

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Senator Diane E. Watson

WORD UP

BY LEON MILLER

THE SUMMER OF OUR DISCONTENT

Remember Donna Summer? Remember when the disco diva dissed the community calling gay men "sinners" and saying that AIDS was "a divine ruling"?

In an attempt to put the still lingering controversy behind her, Summer asked composer Paul Jabara to create an apologetic response in song. Although Donna liked the tune, and recorded the song, she left it off her new album.

Guess those bars that have banned Donna Summer oldies from their jukeboxes will have to keep up their embargoes a little longer.

And speaking of embargoes, remember the boycott against Coors?

It seems a worker at the Coors plant in Golden, Colo. turned the wrong valve and sent at least 155,000 gallons of beer into the adjacent Clear Creek, killing 3,000 fish.

AS LONG AS THE CLOSET DOORS ARE CLOSED

Rita Dyson, of the Black and Latino Multicultural Book Center in Pasadena, Calif. recently returned copies of several different issues of BLK we had sent to her—with permission—for free distribution at her store. A note which accompanied the returns stated, "No interest. Thank you."

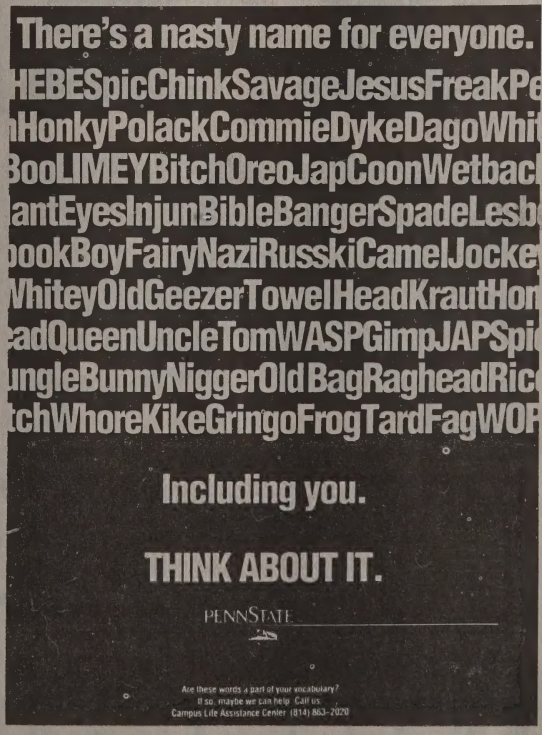
I called Dyson and we talked for quite a while. She gave the usual litany of homophobic justifications: parents come to her store, children could see the material, black boys already have enough "problems," people should keep their sexuality quiet, there are too many black women and not enough eligible black men, people aren't born "that way" and homosexuals actively "recruit" unsuspecting straights.

The Black and Latino Multicultural Book Center is located at 23 N. Mentor Ave., Pasadena, Calif. 91106. Their telephone number is 818-792-0117.

NASTY NAMES FOR EVERYONE

The fifth Penn State University poster developed in the past four years to address issues of diversity on the campus is a listing of all the bad words under the heading "There's a nasty name for everyone."

It's simple, and hopefully, effective.



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BLK MAIL

JOE SIMMONS: PRO AND CON

Dear Editor:

Thanks for that wonderful interview article with Joe Simmons. He is my most loved black actor in porno movies. I've caught him live in New York a couple of times. I do not have the guts to walk up to him and say I love your shows or videos.

He has a lovely body and should continue taking good care of himself. I also have a couple of his movies.

At any rate I want to say thanks for the interview which gave us more about one of the hottest porn stars today. Keep up the good work, Joe.

Gerry
Jacksonville, Fla.

Dear Editor:

Whomever your appointee is, needs to have their head examined. If they could not take out the time to, review your record or even question your interests in the betterment of the community at hand.

In the past, five pages of BLK reading material has been most informative and educational! How someone allowed you to waste good paper on a classic Uncle Tom, I'll never know. I wonder, was Tom given in the Mapplethorpe's *Black Book*, due to the fact he is a Tom or he just looked like a Tom? Hm? In the 30 plus films I've seen Simmons in, not once, once mind you has this thing bent over for a brother—a white boy, yes several—but not a black man.

In closing I'd really enjoy the entertainment in your magazine. Yet, if this type of stupidity continues, I'll seek other sources of reading material. Yes, the lose of one or two readers will not harm you or your paper. In time it will harm the community and your job.

In the name of blackminds and beauty I bid you peace, good luck, love and high hopes your act comes together soon.

Denique Clark
New York, N.Y.

Dear Editor:

First of all; hats off to Alan Bell for doing a fine interview and a superb introduction on Joe Simmons. Certainly he has a knack for putting people in the best light.

But since no one else is bringing up certain issues some of us have the responsibility in broaching certain topics. Things that concern us—black gay men—because if we don't consider our needs and truths important no one else will.

I'm writing in regards to your interview with porn star Joe Simmons in your June 1991 issue. It's interesting the way you see a person afar and you imagine them to be the person you wish them to be. However an interview cracks the illusion as they tell about their life, likes, dislikes, habits, dreams and observances.

This interview reminded me of another interview *B.F.P. Tribune* did with black porn star Tory Bell. These interviews read similar in certain ways. Uncanny? They deny being gay but they do gay porn flicks. They have never had a lover, not looking for one yet they have had girlfriends and have not ruled out marriage. They do things to get $ from the gay community but don't take gays seriously.

What does this say about we as black gay men?

We allow these: trade, bisexual, mess-arounders, straight, whatever they call themselves, to come into our bars and cruise women. They make porn movies and photo shots that we buy and they make no apology that this is only until something better comes along.

If Mr. Simmons doesn't have need for a lover and as the interviewer asked "Not even boyfriends or short term affairs?" then what need do we have for him? I don't know how other black men feel but this is how I feel about it.

No, Mr. Simmons you cannot bring your fine as all outdoors black ass to the peep shows and porn mags of America and tell us you don't have time to even take one of us seriously. What are you waiting on or looking for? Right after your interview is the story of "D" Cannon a black man who won International Mr. Leather 1991. But I guess he's not good enough for you because you're a "rebel." A rebel without a heart?

Some serious dialogue is going to have to be initiated because when our most

"Uh, oh. Got any rubbers?"

intelligent charismatic black men each choose to be an autonomous nation then what does that say about the potential just waiting to happen but won't because....

Yet as usual none of us escape being black. Look at us. Joe talked about the blatant racism in the porn industry even against top draws such as himself. Isn't it strange he can put all of this behind him and still identify himself as all-American? He still wants to work with whites and doesn't have time for one of us.

He says he travels a lot and that would get in the way of a relationship. I say thank God for the postal service and the telephone company. And quality time.

A question I would have asked Joe is; When you're up against racism such as, "We can't put you on the cover of our magazine because you're black," do you unconsciously fault other blacks who are lagging behind as the reason for your being discriminated against?

I don't mean to cast aspersions but a lot of us are running away from ourselves. There is a thing called a black connection—it's soul, it's being and it's black men loving black men. Because of our own oppression and homophobia our interconnection has been hidden from us and the truth is a lot of us are dying inside and don't know why.

There are myriad roads we can take that promise victory if the challange is met but our hearts only ask we come home to ourselves, first. Then we can conquer the world. Which I'm sure men like Joe Simmons and "D" Cannon want to do anyway. Peace.

Michael Douglas
Houston, Tex.

AN APPALLING ABOMINATION

Dear Editor:

As president of the Minority Business Association, I feel that it is not in the best of interest to remain silent on the issue of bill AB 101.

The thought of the possibility of homosexuals being legally recognized as minorities appalls me. And the fact that two black politicians, namely Diane Watson and Curtis Tucker support this bill is sickening.

Since when does a chosen lifestyle justify calling someone a minority under the same definition given to minorities who have had to suffer and die to receive rights, that we could not briginally have because of something we had no control over: the color of our skin!

Our organization will be planning a march with local businesses and churches opposed to the passage of this bill in the very near future in the West Hollywood area. We will also keep in mind, come the next election, the stand taken by Senator Watson, and Assemblyman Tucker.

For a country built on the slogan, "In God We Trust," I sometimes wonder what are we coming to.

Homosexuality is an abomination to God and most Americans, but if we sit back and do nothing, this abomination will be the downfall of life as we know it. I trust you will publish this letter in your next publication.

James L. Thomas
Inglewood, Calif.

BLK

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ON THE COVER: Pomo-Afro-Homos. Photo by Darius Blair.

BLK PEOPLE

LOS ANGELES Jackie Gelfand has been appointed the Director of Youth Services for the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center.

DALLAS David Wilson, just recently named Mr. Dallas All-American 1992, became first alternate in the Mr. Texas All-American 1992 contest.

NEW YORK David Rousseve, who performed recently as part of the Los Angeles and San Francisco program "Black Choreographers Moving Towards the 21st Century," with his autobiographical dances pieces, was profiled in the *Advocate.*

OAKLAND Pomo Afro star Bernard Branner was M.C. at the East Bay benefit premiere showing of *Paris Is Burning.*

HONOLULU Audre Lorde, recuperating nicely from her chemotherapy, traveled to the Hawaiian islands to view the sun's eclipse in July.

LOS ANGELES Psychologist Don Norman is resting comfortably at home on a doctor-ordered vacation following minor back surgery.

NEW YORK Eric Stephen Booth, author of the play *Je Ne Regrette Rien,* was one of 18 to win a $1500 Bronx Council on the Arts BRIO award.

LOS ANGELES Poet and performance artist Michelle T. Clinton and painter and performance artist Marcus Kuiland-Nazario (with his "sister," Carmen), were among the speakers on political correctness at the Lesbian and Gay Rights Chapter of the ACLU.

ST LOUIS Diedre McCalla performed at the Twist on July 12, meeting first with fans at WestEnd Way.

LOS ANGELES Lyle Ashton Harris presents his photography in a group show, "Presenting Rearwards," at the Rosamund Felsen Gallery through Sept 7.

LOS ANGELES Jewel Thaïs-Williams celebrates Catch-A-Burger's first anniversary this month.

WASHINGTON The most widely read African-American syndicated columnist, Carl Rowan, has come down squarely in favor of lesbians and gays serving in the military.

SEATTLE J.J. Jackson has been promoted to Regional Manager of Hamburger Mary's, the restaurant and bar chain.

ATLANTA Maurice O'Brien Franklin is National Director of the National AIDS Awareness Program of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

WASHINGTON Spreading the word in the black and Latino communities about AIDS is Larry Spivey through his now popular safe sex home parties.

SAN DIEGO Rev. Delores Berry held a Spiritual Renewal Weekend at MCC-San Diego.

WASHINGTON Ernest Hopkins, the representative of the D.C. Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gay Men, has been elected co-chair of the Domestic Partnership Coalition.

SAN FRANCISCO Essex Hemphill, Marlon Riggs and Alan Miller read from their own work as well as other contributors to their book, *Brother to Brother,* in a benefit July 27 hosted by the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention.

SEATTLE Sherry Harris, lesbian candidate for the Seattle City Council, has been endorsed by the newly formed Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, a newly established political action committee based in D.C.

PHILADELPHIA Lesbian poet Jourdan Keith was profiled in *Philadelphia Gay News* in last month.

CHICAGO Mike Scott won the Calendar Boy contest at the L.A. Connection.

LOS ANGELES Antonio Le Mons was interviewed on KCLA's *Limuel on Your Radio Show* Aug. 17.

LOWELL, Mass. Samuel R. Delany was guest of honor at the Gaylaxian Science Fiction Society's third annual convention held in Tewksbury, Mass. Hannah M.G. Shapero will appear as artist guest of honor.

LOS ANGELES Desmond Fletcher, Reginald Chapple, Parnell Marcano, Ron Willis, Joe Hawkins were the recipients of "Ron Grayson Awards" at last month's BMX/LA anniversary party. Other special awards went to Arthur Crump, Greg Coleman, Hopeton Stewart and co-founder Cleo Manago.

NEW YORK Dr. Parris Kidd, author of *Living with the AIDS Virus: A Strategy for Long Term Survival,* spoke at the Educational Forum Aug. 16.

WASHINGTON Alexander Robinson is leaving his top post at the Inner City AIDS Network to take a lobbying spot with the ACLU.

HOUSTON Loynell Brooks was named Mr. Houston All-American 1992 in a contest held at Heaven.

SAN FRANCISCO Brian Freeman and Jackie Goldsby were on the Who Is 'We'?" panel as part of the Out/Look Foundation's HomoSocial series.

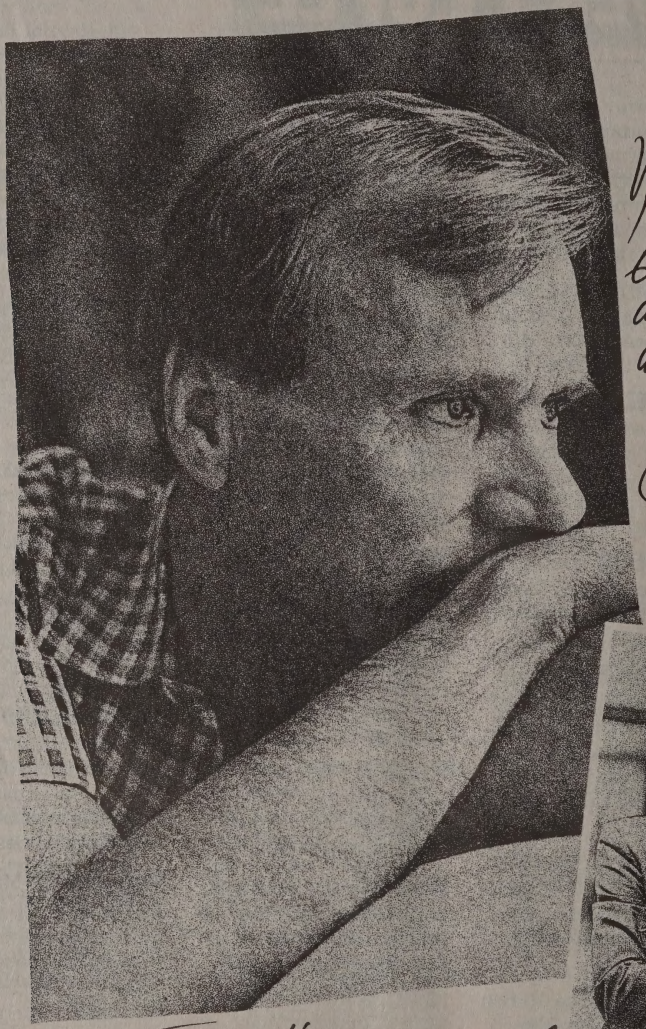
WASHINGTON Magic Turney and Sheri Marshall were on hand to help at the Friends United to Assist Jody Wildy Fund fundraiser last month.

BALTIMORE Mandy Carter was a keynote speaker at the 16th annual Southeastern Conference for Lesbians and Gay Men.

CHICAGO Ramsey Lewis will be among the celebrity M.C.s at AIDSWalk Sept. 22.

NEW YORK Chris Hansen says *au revoir* to MACT/NY after 21 years in the Big Apple to take a new position in Chicago.

LIVING WITH HIV



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Young, Gifted and Fierce

Telling very real stories makes heroes of three very real black gay men.

BY ALAN E. MILLER

After his just-completed performance of *Fierce Love: Stories from Black Gay Life* in Santa Monica's Highways Performance Space, Director Brian Freeman had a moment of trepidation. Two members of the audience converged upon him offering congratulations, his brother Malik, and Los Angeles-based performance artist Vaginal Creme Davis (sans drag). Freeman said "I didn't want to introduce them, but I did. I said 'Malik, this is Vadge; Vadge, Malik.' That was a strange moment for me. Under different circumstances, those two would cross the street to avoid one another, but on that occasion, they talked for quite awhile."

"In one way, they have a great deal in common, in terms of the fact that they are both black men who have embraced, for whatever reasons, new names and new identities. My brother's given name is Mark, and Vaginal, well..." Naturally, it is strange and disturbing to Freeman that many black theaters have refused to book or even to consider *Fierce Love*. They have, in effect, prevented the kind of dialogue between black lesbians and gay men and the black heterosexual community represented by that chance meeting of Malik and Vaginal. After an amiable, and even encouraging, discussion with one of the coordinators of the National Black Theatre Festival in Winston-Salem, N.C., Freeman sent a videotape. He has still not received a written response clarifying why *Fierce Love* was rejected. This was surprising to him not only because he had previously brought shows to the Festival, but also because in his initial contact with the coordinator he had forthrightly discussed its "controversial" content.

Fierce Love consists of 12 vignettes which tells some of the stories of black gay men. This collection is strong on storytelling in voices that are varied. One brother coyly relates a steamy safe sex scene with another brother in a jerk off club. Three outrageous sissies flaunt the qualities that have led their status-conscious brothers to reject them—and create their own club and rules. (And so the "Just Us Club" is born.) Three butch queens perform a rap about the meaning of red bandannas in the right hip pocket. *In Living Color*'s Blaine and Antoine find themselves "outed." These are a few of the voices commanding the attention of sold-out audiences in Los Angeles, Seattle and San Francisco and soon in New York and San Diego.

Despite their success, they have been barred access to a larger, wider audience. National Public Radio's *Morning Edition* aired an interview with the cast, but its multicultural affairs program rejected the show. Despite that Freeman has routinely contacted the black press where the show has been performed, they have been uniformly unresponsive. The lesbian and gay press and even the straight establishment press in each of their venues thus far on the other hand, have provided not only favorable but rave reviews. The three performers who constitute Pomo-Afro-Homos (Post-modern African-American Homosexuals), Brian Freeman, Bernard Branner and Eric Gupton, were even designated as "Heroes" in the San Francisco *Sentinel* special Lesbian and Gay Pride Week issue. The July 2 issue of *The Advocate* featured a review of the show. A San Francisco area television show *Bay Sunday* featured members of Pomo-Afro-Homos on Lesbian and Gay Pride Day. Freeman finds this response heartening, though it doesn't assuage his feelings of neglect by the black community. The gay press's response is not surprising to him since, he says, black gay men have

been working to make the lesbian and gay press more responsive. He believes the same kind of process needs to happen within the black community. His membership in the black gay men's support group, Black Gay Men United, has helped.

"Without the group," he says, "I never could have done this show. BGMU is where I learned to see what was in front of my eyes. When I joined, I thought of the group as a place to do my activist thing. I was initially very dismissive. What I came to find was an incredible sense of community solidarity. It was a place where I was not expected to play a particular role. I didn't have to pretend to be gayer, to be blacker. I could just be myself."

Freeman, who appeared in fellow BGMU member Marlon Riggs's *Tongues Untied*, says that Riggs's choreopoem/documentary helped the creation and evolution of *Fierce Love*. "It definitely mattered that Marlon was there doing his work, that [Joseph Beam's pioneering anthology of black gay writing] *In The Life* was there, and that the brothers in Other Countries (the New York-based writing workshop and journal) were doing their work. This play is definitely a product of the pieces that have come before it, and this play reflects the fact that we are learning to see each other as valuable people in each other's lives. For many of us, as black gay men living in urban areas, this is something new, this sense of creating a larger black gay community. Culture is something that definitely helps us build communities that we can live in."

BGMU also helped Freeman write parts of *Fierce Love* in a more practical sense. "I knew BGMU would laugh at this stuff. I could hear them. I knew people had this sensibility. That's very important to my putting this work together. What surprised me—and even shocked me—is that other communities appreciated the show, that even straight people liked it. Another thing that I have learned is that this show has had some practical value. I can't tell you how many times people have come up to me and told me that they have told off the real-life counterparts of the straight-acting (and married) gay character that I play. The audiences are usually really vocal, which I like. It's practice for real-life confrontations with these characters."

His continuing efforts reflect not only commitment to bridging gaps and creating dialogue, but also a developing sense of what the past wrought and what the future should bring. "We know who this show is for, but white folks and straight folks need to hear it, too. We sit through *Terminator 2* and the *Cosby Show* without seeing ourselves. Instead of viewing homosexuals as one more problem, let's look at lesbians and gays as part of the solution. After all, we've always been part of the solution. Look at Langston Hughes or James Baldwin or Pat Parker or Lorraine Hansberry. Are they part of the problem or part of the solution?"

"I don't see that 'bull' has anything to do with it."

Freeman was with the renowned San Francisco Mime Troupe for eight years, both on the stage and behind it. The political edge and the satire which the Mime Troupe is known for are evident in *Fierce Love*. Some of his sense of craft and attentiveness to black audiences is no doubt due to Freeman's three season apprenticeship with the Negro Ensemble Theatre in New York. There he worked with Douglas Turner Ward, Sheryl Lee Ralph, Clinton Turner Davis and Larry Fishburne, among others.

One project he has considered is a kind of "looking for Bayard," an examination of one of the architects of the 1963 March on Washington, Bayard Rustin. Freeman says "I'm just beginning to deal with black gay themes. I want to talk about being black and gay in the context of the larger community. The question I'd like to explore is 'Who are we at home?' Bayard Rustin is interesting to me because of his proximity to America's favorite icon, Dr. Martin Luther King. That says a lot to me. That Martin Luther King's right hand man was a black gay man is fascinating. It is difficult to gain access to information about that. For now though, I'm working hard to take *this* show as many places as I can. Everywhere we've travelled we've gotten outstanding reviews. In addition to Seattle, we've been to the Los Angeles area twice, first to the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum Conference and then recently to Santa Monica where we also did a benefit for them. In the Bay Area, we've done benefits for AIDS organizations, too. We'll go wherever we can get an audience."

That *Fierce Love* has been featured or reviewed in each of the Bay Area's major newspapers is something that cast member Bernard Branner finds perplexing. Even though all the attention is positive, with many of the publications dubbing it a "must-see," Branner says, "It's very strange to pick up every newspaper in town and find your face there." The Los Angeles performances were important ones for Branner too, since he is a native of that city, and most of his family still resides there. "It was hard," says Branner, "to perform there, in front of my family. I was apprehensive about how they would deal with the content, but they sat right in front, and they loved it. They *loved* it. Even so, it was hard for me."

"My brothers wouldn't even come to the show. It is a sensitive issue in my family since my oldest brother kicked his own son out of the house for being gay."

For Branner, as for Freeman, *Tongues Untied* and BGMU helped in the process of coming out and of integrat-

ing the various aspects of his life. The play has strengthened his gay identity despite the fact that Branner had performed and written about the experiences of black gay men as early as 1979, when he staged a theater piece called *Evolution of the Blues* in the town of Santa Cruz, where he earned his B.A. at the University of California. He describes the piece as "a black diva's revenge in a bar where nobody pays any attention to her." The hilariously choreographed "Red Bandannas" had its roots in a poem Branner wrote in 1983, but as the performer notes, "It didn't have a rap beat then." Additionally, Branner included aspects of homosexuality in his thesis performance at San Francisco State University in 1990 where he received an M.A. in Interdisciplinary Arts. That piece, *Flesh and Spirit,* combined traditional Haitian dance and folklore with homosexual content. According to him, "People forget that there are homosexuals in traditional cultures and movements. People like to forget that. Just like snapping and vogueing and a lot of popular slang. How many people know where that stuff came from? My thesis performance and this play too are ways of appropriating things that are ours as black gay men."

After *Tongues Untied* aired over a year ago, Branner found himself dealing openly with his gay identity at work for the first time. "One of my [high school] students said 'I saw you on TV last night, movie star.' Naturally, this made all the other students curious, but they were very receptive. *Fierce Love* has been a continuation of that process, of connecting different aspects of my life. Now I'm out with the people at work. They may have known before that I was gay, but I had never talked about my lifestyle with them before the show opened."

"Since then, they have been very supportive. Many of my co-workers have come to the show. The teachers at the elementary school where I work saw reviews in the paper and came, some of them three and four times. My adult (Haitian) dance students have come, too. (Branner continues to teach dance and to direct the Flesh and Spirit Performance Company.) *Fierce Love* has made my life more holistic. I don't feel I have to hide anymore. I feel I can be more open, not just in public, but in relationships too. What that means to me is that this work is about empowerment. It has helped me continue to become empowered in my own life."

"What I find most rewarding," says Branner, "is talking to other black gay men and realizing how empowering the work is for them. Whether they write or just talk, the show helps them believe that their stories are important enough to tell." Branner has discovered that the show has meaning for a wider audience than black gay men, though there is no mistaking its primary audience.

Branner finds the rejection of *Fierce Love* by the National Black Theatre Festival incongruous with the response the play has received from all of its audiences. He says, "I try not to get upset, because it's their loss," but he is hard-pressed to hide his anger and disappointment. "They should at least have the balls to tell us why we were rejected. The thing is, I don't expect to find a home there, nor do I have the energy to fight them. It's much more important to continue doing the work, fighting the fight in that way."

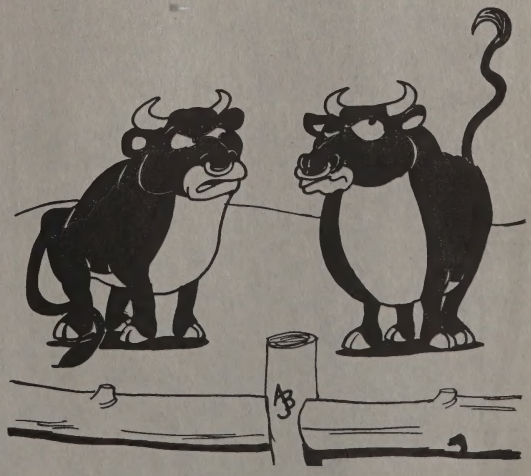
When Branner was in the audience watching Freeman and other gay men of color on a recent Bay Area talk show *People are Talking,* he noted that "our agenda was different from that of the hosts. We wanted to talk about homophobia in communities of color, but they seemed to want to start a fight between us and white gay men. It is important that we not get sidetracked into fighting someone else's fight."

After seeing Branner as "Popcorn" it is difficult to believe him when he says "The hardest thing for me to do in the show is the sissies because I had disassociated myself from that part of myself long ago. Doing the show meant that now I had to get in touch with them again."

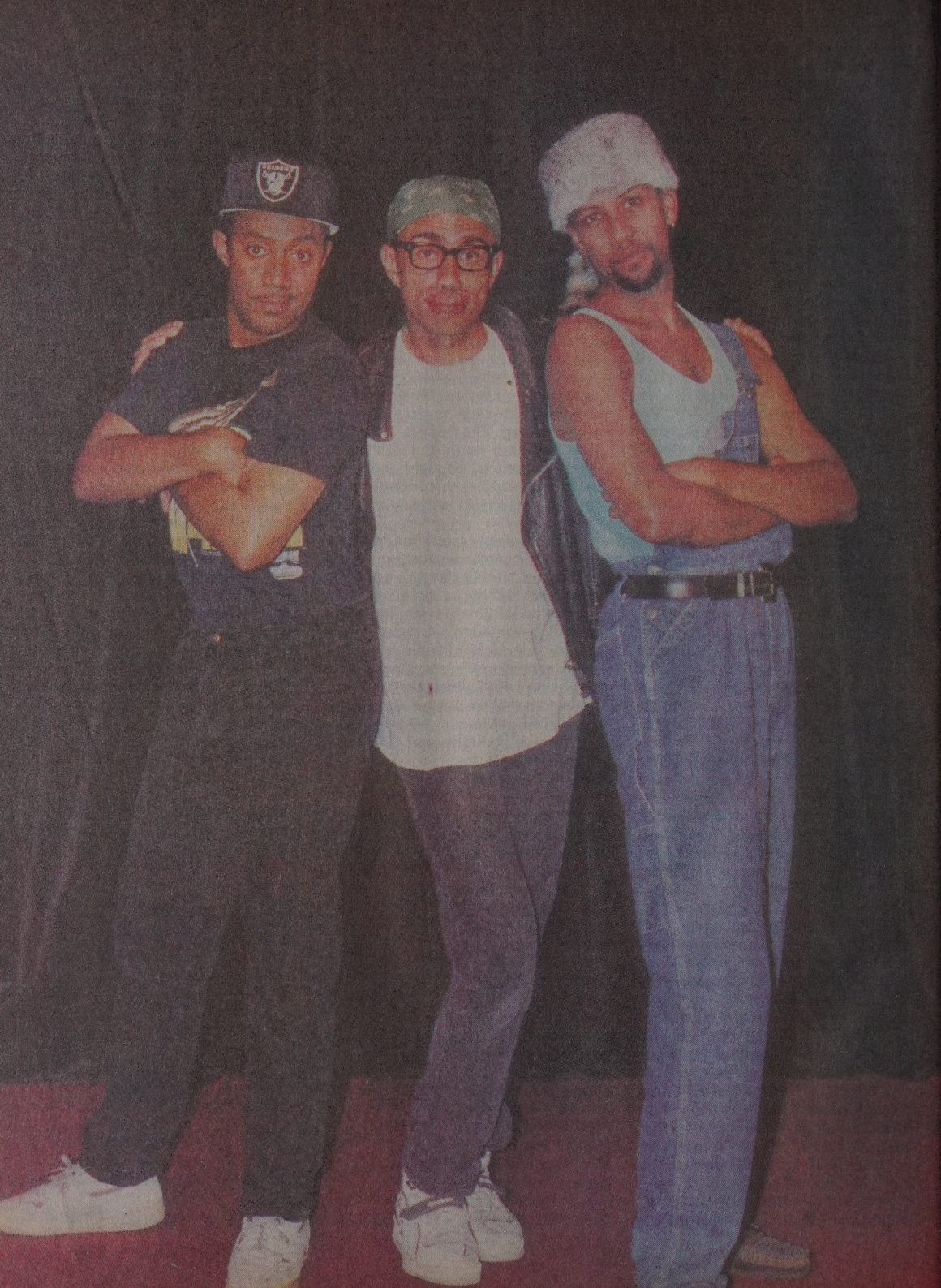
That meant putting himself back in touch with the child who had dressed in Mom's clothes until the adults no longer found it cute. "I had permission to claim them again. I had to say: I can swish and swirl my superlatives and that's alright. Personally, this has allowed me to play more and experiment with my personality and with my responses to things."

Branner has come a long way from Watts and what he admits was a sheltered childhood in which all of his brothers and sisters were much older. While he points out that South Central Los Angeles was not so violent then, Branner admits that he was eager to leave to pursue a career as a veterinarian. After taking four years of science classes, he allowed himself to become the artist he says he always was.

Eric Gupton, the third member of Pomo-Afro-Homos, was exposed at a very early age to dance and theater, attending the Alma Lewis School of Fine Arts in Boston. At the age of nine, he was already studying both African dance and classical ballet. Gupton also started acting at an early age, performing in high school and college in both experimental and traditional theater. After he came to the west coast in 1984 he began to take Haitian dance classes from Branner (whom he calls "one of the most respected specialists in the field in this area") and then became one of four principal dancers in Branner's Flesh and Spirit Performance Company. That was fortuitous. It was actually in dance that Gupton originally made a name for himself in the Bay Area. That is, before his performance as a gay



"I don't see that 'dyke' has anything to do with it."



waiter in *Cafe Depresso*, netted him a nomination for Best Supporting Actor by the Bay Area Critics Circle.

His performance in *Fierce Love* is in some ways a culmination of all the work he has done. At tiny Antioch College (600 students), Gupton was a co-director of the Lesbian and Gay Center. He made it his mission while there to expose the campus to successful black lesbians and gay men. Among those who visited the campus were singer Blackberri, author and publisher Barbara Smith, and Pat Norman, executive director of the California AIDS Intervention Training. It was the high profile of a black gay man on the campus which lured him to that tiny Ohio campus. At a college fair in Boston, Gupton happened to see the picture of the student body president in an Antioch newspaper lying on their booth. Impressed by the impact that this man had on the campus in curriculum and in other areas, Gupton said "I knew that was the place for me."

He had come out to his family while still in high school. "My Mom said 'I don't understand this,' but she was supportive. My Dad said that it (my homosexuality) was a white man's disease and that I would get over it. I'm the oldest, and I've always been the outspoken one in my family. They had always taught me to speak out and to question. That was just another way of doing what I had been taught, to be honest. Of course, sometimes they were terrified by some of the things I said. They are much more accepting now but even then they were supportive. After all, many young men in my neighborhood had already been gunned down by that time. My parents were always more concerned with what the world would do to me."

Gupton enjoys travelling with the show, and looks forward to having the show seen by his family in Boston, also the home of director Freeman. The trip to the Alice B. Theatre Festival in Seattle was special for Gupton because even though there were fewer black gay men in that city than in their other venues, they did get to spend time with two black gay crew members who, after being tentative and nervous with the cast, were able to warm up to them after five performances there. "We went out to dinner with them after it was all over and 'had house' where they shared stories with us that they felt they couldn't share with anyone else. We were all very moved by their candor and honesty, and afterwards they thanked us profusely for giving them a vehicle and an opportunity to tell their stores. I knew then that this work is much more important and reaches the hearts and souls of people in ways I wouldn't dare imagine."

"That's why I love this show—not only because it speaks to the hearts and souls of so many men in this country, but also because it is becoming a part of people's lives *now*. Our stories are being told not only in the quiet kitchens of friends, but in a space where they can now be experienced by many. I love it when people come up to talk afterwards. Almost always they end up thanking us for telling their stories. What disturbs me though is that some white gay men think that this show encourages separatism. Even some of my friends have said this. I can understand that in some places that they feel left out. After all, this show requires a certain vocabulary and background knowledge. If they don't understand though, they should come afterwards and ask us about what we're doing. We really want audiences to ask questions and to talk with us about the show. This is an honest show and it needs to be dealt with honestly, but it is not surprising that some people have questions. There hasn't been anything like this in American theater."

The uniqueness of the show is what Gupton blames for the show's rejection by the Festival. But he is quick to point out the irony of that action. "It is a sad state of affairs when a fest that is supposed to embrace the scope and breadth of the African-American theater has rejected me. I *am* a bit upset about that but I've heard that some of the people who saw the show in Los Angeles are planning to go back to Winston-Salem and tell the planners how much this show deserved to be included in the festival. We've been doing the show primarily in experimental theaters, which is wonderful. We'd like to book this show in other places too, because we want as many people as possible to experience it."

Gupton's safe sex monologue has earned him more attention than he is willing to admit. He feels successful with it and comfortable because "it talks about sex, which is something I've never had any trouble talking about. I like men, the way they touch, feel, smell and act. I try to make that come across in the piece. But it goes beyond sex. I hope that comes across, too."

Even in that piece, he says, there is an element of collaboration, though there is a division of labor within the group. Branner handles the dance and movement aspects; Freeman much of the directorial responsibilities, writing, and booking, and Gupton the music.

"I don't know how much it shows but there's a lot of collaboration. This has truly been a collaboration. Even when one of us is out there on the stage alone, we're not really alone. We've all worked together to make this piece work."

Freeman has been surprised by the extent to which he has become more visible, even as a "spokesman" for the black gay community. "I couldn't have imagined this a year ago, or even six months ago," he says. Some of the attention, he suspects, is due to tokenism and to novelty (although some of it is due to genuine interest and respect for difference), but he is certainly making the most of his opportunities. He, too, is providing opportunities, in that many of the performances of *Fierce Love* have been benefits for gay or AIDS organizations, like the one for Seattle's People of Color AIDS Network, the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, the October benefit for Gay Men of African Descent in New York, or the recent benefit for *Out/Look* magazine.

As emcee for the opening of *Paris Is Burning* (a benefit for the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention and the San Francisco-based Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center), Freeman remarked, "It's been a black gay summer across the nation!"

For the *Out/Look* event, he delivered a speech on the topic "Who Is We?" where he mused about his emerging role as spokesperson with his characteristic humor. "The success of *Fierce Love* has put me in a public spotlight and I find myself becoming a 'professional homosexual.' Basically, I, like erotic video star Joe Simmons, now get paid for being black and gay and I think it is no coincidence that with the emerging visibility of a black gay community, there can be black gay performance artists as well as black gay porn. Well, you *could* call Joe a performance artist. He certainly performs. But does he write his own material?"

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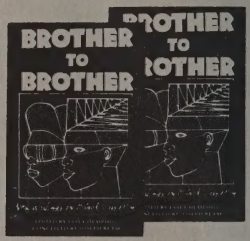

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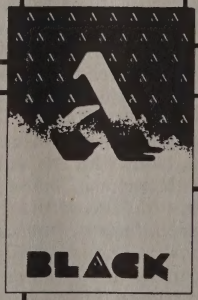

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"BECAUSE STRONG LEADERSHIP LEADS TO A STRONGER COMMUNITY"

Pressing Issues

A quick history and survey of current black lesbian and gay periodicals.

BY MARK HAILE

An ordinary newspaper is the daily chronicle of a community's life and especially of the extraordinary events therein. In the African-American community, the very existence of a newspaper, or any form of communication chronicling black life, is extraordinary, as much now as during the days of slavery.

It wasn't on a whim that white men made it illegal to teach slaves and women how to read in many parts of the United States. Their own struggle for independence had taught them the power of information.

Just as the first newspapers in colonial America were single sheet radical leaflets, quickly suppressed by the British, so too most black and most gay publications had humble beginnings.

Francis Williams was the first African-American to publish—a book of poems in Latin on April 17, 1758. Not long after, African-born Phyllis Wheatley, kidnapped at eight years of age and taken to Boston, began writing in English at age 13. Thus the literary resistance of African-Americans began. It would not be until March 16, 1827 (now celebrated as Black Press Day) that the first black newspaper, *Freedoms Journal*, would launch the regular black press.

The African-American press was upfront about its mission of liberation, and suffered mightily for it. On Nov. 10, 1898, a mob of whites murdered at least 300 blacks in Wilmington, N.C., while an unknown number of bodies floated out to sea. The lynch mobs burned down the offices of the *Wilmington Record*, and went in search of the editor, Alex Manly. The message to other black newspapers across the country was obvious.

Don't look for an account of the massacre in an official North Carolina history text book. No complete edition of the *Record* is known to exist today. Yet the attempt to muzzle black voices would not succeed. New publications, such as W.E.B. DuBois's *Crisis*, and later A. Phillip Randolph's *Opportunity*, sprang into being after the turn of the century and during World War I.

The same hostile message would be delivered a half century later to the fledgling attempts of lesbians and gay men to document the doings and concerns of their community. Early mimeographed newsletters also withstood bombings and witchhunts. After homemade newsletters had grown into hundreds of publications distributed to hundreds of thousands of readers, HIV would pose a new threat to the survival of the gay media.

Though many of today's black lesbian and gay newspapers and magazines are still in their fledgling years of publication, gay consciousness has spread as readership has enlarged. When viewed against the backdrop of the racism and homophobia which still exist in this country, the economic and social apartheid that the black lesbian and gay community still endures, there is added significance to the struggle of these institutions to survive along with their community. It adds a somber note to the recognition of those publications which exist now only as historical footnotes.

In all probability, the first magazine which might be called black and gay was *Fire!!* A single issue published in the summer of 1926 showcased the best and brightest of the Harlem Renaissance including works by Langston Hughes, Bruce Nugent, Countee Cullen, Zora Neale Hurston and others. Alas, it may have so shocked its intended audience that no subsequent issue dared emerge in print. True to its name, the bulk of the copies of the publication went up in flames in the basement where they were stored; the controversy long outlasted the magazine.

The next positive mention of gays in a mainstream black publication was not to come until 1948, when a March issue of *Ebony* would give mention to Josie's Deluxe Club, a popular Detroit show bar.

Almost a decade after the Stonewall Riots in 1969, the Third World Lesbian and Gay Conference of 1979 turned that year into the next one of significance for black lesbian and gay publishing. Participants returning home from the Washington, D.C. gathering were inspired to found a number of organizations and institutions for lesbian and gay people of color communities.

In August 1979, a four-page *Blacklight* was crafted by Sidney Brinkley, a journalist whose vision it was to create a newspaper especially for Washington, D.C.'s black lesbian and gay community. From a mere debut of 300 copies, Brinkley's dedication saw the paper increase to a run of 7,000 within two years. *Blacklight* was lauded for its commentary and features as much as its professional approach to the news. That it was the only lesbian and gay publication at the time able to interview now former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and mayor of Atlanta Andrew Young, testifies to the prominence *Blacklight* developed in the nation's capital.

Moja: Gay & Black was a unique New York newspaper that included information from gay publications from across the country. Co-editors Calvin Lowery and William Harris published beginning in 1979 a comprehensive compilation of news, history and features in communities of color, paying special attention to the difficulties of living constantly in an undefined zone between families of origin and the gay community. In addition to maintaining a strong feminist content, *Moja* challenged the racism in the gay community, the homophobia in communities of color and sexism and violence wherever they found it.

No organization would be more diverse—or need to be—in its communication with members than BWMT. Local chapters and the national umbrella association that coordinates inter-chapter communication and activities produce a variety of publications ranging from one-page flyers to sophisticated journals timed for their yearly national convention. The San Francisco/Bay Area chapter has published continuously since 1979, which makes it the longest running gay publication for blacks still in operation, keeping in mind that it is the product of a common effort of gay men of all colors. The New York City chapter, Men of All Colors Together, has a newsletter which has become the indispensable multicultural guide to the city. Chock full of everything and anything happening in New York, it reflects the most progressive political perspective and has heralded the trend toward multiculturalism. Perhaps their most ambitious literary project yet will be a special tenth anniversary anthology of writing by men *and* women of all colors, due out this fall.

From San Francisco, the *Quarterly*, founded in 1980, was a literate and challenging periodical devoted to promoting lesbian and gay third world interests. In 1983 its editor published *Colorful People and Places*, the most comprehensive listing of lesbians and gays of color ever undertaken. Both the *Quarterly* and *Colorful People* were written by Michael J. Smith, a white interracialist who founded BWMT in San Francisco in January 1980.

Onyx, the first black lesbian newsletter, was a bimonthly first published in 1982 by a black lesbian collective to promote social support and anti-racist activities from its Berkeley base. There was also a publication known at the time as the *Black Lesbian Newsletter* across the bay in San Francisco unaffiliated with *Onyx* or its predecessor of the same name.

The Diplomat began in Chicago in 1981, moving to Washington, D.C. to provide additional focus on other Third World lesbians and gay men.

Azalea, a newsletter published by the Azalea Collective, a lesbian of color group active in New York, came out in 1983.

Also in 1983, *The Other Black Woman*, began as a quarterly published by the Committee for the Visibility of the Other Black Woman: The Black Lesbian, in New York.

Jambo!, Swahili for "hello," was a publication by *Paz y Liberación* of Houston which briefly attempted to cover information on lesbian and gays in Africa and the Islamic nations. It was later absorbed into *PyL*.

A decade into the AIDS epidemic in America, there are now publications worldwide for researchers, caregivers, people with AIDS themselves and periodicals aimed at certain communities. Just as the gay community built a network of services without the assistance—and sometimes under the open harassment—of federal officials, the black community realized that specially tailored information and communication links between cities and organizations were imperative. Publications such as *Peer Point*, published by the Inner City AIDS Network of Washington, D.C. have done much to spread hard core information—and hope—to lesbian and gay African-Americans affected by or infected with HIV across the nation.

In another corner of gay publishing, that of erotica, the pioneers whose major focus were black men were Third World Studios of Chicago and Sierra Domino of San Francisco. *Force One* was published in San Francisco from 1980 until 1982 when it's owner Alan Boone died suddenly. The magazine featured photographs of black male nudes only. On the scene for but briefly, the *BFP Tribune* began as a company newsletter and expanded into a full-fledged magazine providing an in depth look at the world of black gay male erotica. Although it covered its subject thoroughly and quickly sold out in local stores, subscribers did not materialize quickly enough to sustain the publication.

While this list is current for the information received by BLK at the time of publication, there are some periodicals for which information could not be verified by press deadline. This includes information on the *Alternative*, a new black gay tabloid set for a September debut.

This compilation basically covers periodicals that are published by African-American lesbians and gay men, but a special mention must be made of a number of publishing efforts around the world. None could be more inspiring than the work of the Gays and Lesbians of the Witwatersrand, whose *GLOW Newsletter* is the first serving brothers and sisters on the African continent. Operating largely with foreign assistance, these men and women are communicating to the black lesbian and gay community of South Africa amid circumstances that most Americans would find difficult to imagine. Their experiences and determination are both humbling and inspiring.

Also exciting is England's *Black Lesbian and Gay Centre Project Newsletter*, filling 12 pages with information of what is happening across England in lesbian and gay communities of color. An interesting note: In Great Britain, the term black is used to refer to anyone of African, Asian, Latin American or Pacific Islander heritage

and all other indigenous peoples outside of Europe. The sense of interconnectedness is evident through the newsletter, which incorporates local happenings with world-wide news events.

Closer to home, *Caribbean Heat* magazine gives Puerto Rico a source for news, information on HIV services and social events in a unique bilingual format. *Heat* has appeared at a critical time for the lesbian and gay community, as Puerto Rico is experiencing one of the highest rates of HIV infection in the country, alongside the proliferation of new organizations, from Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays to ACT-UP.

Other groups outside the continental U.S. which deserve acknowledgement are Grupo Gay da Bahia, (founded in 1980 in Brazil's "Blackest" State) the first gay Brazilian group to receive official government recognition in 1983, affiliated with BWMT and NCBLG. GGB publishes a newsletter regularly; and the *Jamaica Gaily News*, founded in 1977 by the Gay Freedom Movement, which lasted longer than any other Caribbean lesbian and gay group before withering away last year.

Here are, then, the potpourri of publications which mirror the many facets of black lesbian and gay life in America, while consolidating a sense of community through dissemination of the information, humor, encouragement, collected wisdom, criticism and debate inspired by our existence.

Aché

Aché: A Journal for Black Lesbians, began as a bimonthly magazine in the East Bay, that now has subscribers across the country and around the world. Since February of 1989, says publisher Lisbet, Aché has been a journal explaining black lesbian culture through interviews, fiction, poetry/prose, artwork, news and other writings. Under the direction of editor DeeAnne Davis, Aché has become a leading journal, recording the experiences of the black lesbian in her own voice.

Aché: A Journal for Black Lesbians, Box 6071, Albany, CA 94706, 415-849-2819. *Publisher:* Lisbet. *Editor:* DeeAnne Davis. *Inception:* February 1989. *Frequency:* Bimonthly. *Primary distribution area:* National and International. *Circulation:* 600, paid. *Single issue:* $2. *Subscription:* $10-25 year. *Page size:* 8½x11. *Display ads:* No. *Classified ads:* Yes.

AllBlack

AllBlack first appeared on the shelves in January of this year, with erotic fiction and photographs depicting black gay men, but appealing to all gay men. Under the editorship of Pat Califia, AllBlack joins the Advocate family of publications, hopefully to be published at least once yearly if sales warrant.

All Black, Box 4371, Los Angeles, CA 90078, 213-871-1225. *Fax:* 213-467-6805. *Publisher:* Niles Merton. *Editor-in-Chief:* Richard Rouilard. *Editor:* Pat Califia. *Inception:* January 1991. *Frequency:* Annual. *Primary distribution area:* National. *Circulation:* 50,000, paid. *Single issue:* $5.95. *Page size:* 8x10⅞. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* No.

Associates Newsletter

The Associates Newsletter is the offficial organ of the Associates, a black gay men's organization in Miami, but the eight-page quarterly includes news and information of the general black gay community in South Florida.

Associates, Box 472382, Miami, FL 33247-2382. *Publisher:* Associates. *Editor:* Rice Blaque. *Inception:* 1990. *Frequency:* Quarterly. *Primary distribution area:* South Florida. *Circulation:* 300, free. *Subscription:* Yes. *Page size:* 8½x11. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* Yes.

B&G

B&G Magazine burst on to the New York scene in February 1990. Under the editorship of Joseph Cornell, B&G is bringing national news and cultural information to New York's African-American community, and spreading the word on New York's African-American gay men across the country. In a city known for its racism, even within the lesbian and gay community, black New Yorkers have had in B&G a magazine that is of their community when neither black nor gay publications can sometimes be counted on. Of late, B&G has had publishing difficulties.

B&G Magazine, Box 1511, New York, NY 10276, 212-629-1887, 800-688-5401. *Publisher:* Joseph Cornell. *Editor:* Joseph Cornell. *Inception:* February 1990. *Frequency:* Monthly, except combined July/August. *Primary distribution area:* East Coast. *Circulation:* 14,500, free. *Single issue:* $2. *Subscription:* $18 year. *Page size:* 8¼x10¾. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* Yes.

BGM

BGM is a literary journal for black gay men. Published by the Black Light Press under the editorship of Sidney Brinkley periodically since 1986, it has contained both fiction and non-fiction, along with photography, art, poetry, prose, interviews and essays. Nationally distributed by Inland Book Company of New Haven, Conn. BGM accepts submissions from writers and artists from across the country, sometimes presenting a theme for the issue.

BGM, Box 9391, Washington, D.C. 20005. *Publisher:* Blacklight Press. *Editor:* Sidney Brinkley. *Inception:* 1986. *Frequency:* Periodically. *Primary distribution area:* National. *Single issue:* $4.95. *Subscription:* None. Page *size:* 7x10. *Display ads:* No. *Classified ads:* Soon.

Black Lace

Black Lace is the new quarterly of the BLK family which will start right where the name implies, crossing over the threshold of the politically correct to another, more intimate kind of sisterhood. This will be the erotica of, by and for black women that could not be had until now. "Let's celebrate," says editor Alycee J. Lane. "Let us share our fantasies frankly, honestly even brutally...to hell with what we've taught ourselves to think. Pledge allegiance to your entire black woman selves.."

Black Lace, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90038-0912, 213-410-0808, *Fax:* 213-410-9250. *Editor:* Alycee J. Lane. *Inception:* Spring 1991. *Frequency:* Quarterly. *Primary distribution area:* National. *Circulation:* 2,000. *Single issue:* $6. *Subscription:* $20 year, $36 two years. Outside U.S. add $8 year. *Page size:* 8¼x10⅞. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* Yes.

Black/Out

Summer of 1986 saw the emergence of Black/Out, the magazine of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays. First published under the editorship of Joseph Beam, later issues were guided by Angela Bowen and Colin Robinson, among others. As the glossy-cover journal of the national

lesbian and gay organization based in Washington, D.C., Black/Out quickly established itself as a credible and attractive magazine. Although it has not been published on a regular basis.

Black/Out. *Inception:* Summer 1986. *Frequency:* Occasionally. *Primary distribution area:* United States. *Single issue:* $6. *Subscription:* $10 year. *Page size:* 8½x11. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* No.

BLK

BLK, the national black lesbian and gay newsmagazine, now has a circulation of 37,000 distributed free to cities across the United States and overseas as well. BLK maintains a vigilant watch for signs of homophobia or racism in the media, a column on personalities, all the latest information on HIV pertaining to African-Americans. Interviews with the role models and movers and shakers of the black lesbian and gay community appear in almost every issue.

BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912, 213-410-0808. *Fax:* 213-410-9250. *Publisher:* Alan Bell. *Editor:* Alan Bell. *Inception:* December 1988. *Frequency:* Monthly. *Primary distribution area:* United States. *Circulation:* 37,000, free. *Single issue:* $2. *Subscription:* $18 year, $30 two years, outside U.S. add $11 year. *Page size:* 8¼x10⅞. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* Yes.

G.B.F.

G.B.F., or Gay Black Female, is published out of Hollywood by Stephanie Wynne with editor Dina Smith. Begun in August of 1990, becoming bimonthly in January 1991. Distributed throughout L.A. and San Francisco-Oakland Bay Area clubs, the black lesbian publication features city to city interaction, interviews, an advice column and personal ads with a growing distribution.

G.B.F., 1680 N. Vine St. #1211, Los Angeles, CA 90028, Hollywood, CA 90028, 213-467-7952. *Publisher:* Stephanie Wynne. *Editor:* Dina Smith. *Inception:* August 1990. *Frequency:* Bimonthly. *Primary distribution area:* Los Angeles. *Circulation:* 5,000, free. *Subscription:* None. *Page size:* 5½x8½. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* Yes.

Habari

Habari is a bimonthly newsletter distributed in the San Diego area. Published by the Lesbians and Gays of African Descent United (LAGADU), it is the primary source of information for African-American activities and other information of interest in the region. Published since September 1989, Habari hopes to distribute the free newsletter across San Diego, by more than doubling their circulation, in the year to come.

Habari, Box 620448, San Diego, CA 92162, 619-294-6515. *Publisher:* Lesbians and Gays of African Descent United. *Editor:* Newsletter Committee. *Inception:* September 1989. *Frequency:* Bimonthly. *Primary distribution area:* San Diego. *Circulation:* 200, free. *Subscription:* None. *Page size:* 8½x11. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* Yes.

Kuumba

Kuumba is the newest literary magazine for lesbians and gay African-Americans, making its debut with the spring 1991 issue. The quarterly features strictly black lesbian and gay poetry from across the country and from Africa as well. It's name comes from one of the seven principles of Kwanzaa, meaning "creativity."

Kuumba, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912, 213-410-0808. *Fax:* 213-410-9250. *Publisher:* Alan Bell. *Editors:* Ayofemi Stowe Folayan and Mark Haile. *Inception:* Spring 1991. *Frequency:* Quarterly. *Primary distribution area:* National. *Circulation:* 500. *Single issue:* $4.50. *Subscription:* $15 year, $28 two years, outside U.S. add $8 year. *Page size:* 8¼x10⅞. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* No.

Literary Xpress

Literary Xpress is a quarterly providing interviews, essays, artwork, articles and photographs, from poetry and the history of literature by or about women of color, with information on health, literary contests and encouragement for women in all endeavors. The Literary Exchange was started in 1985 as a not-for-profit corporation "to heighten the visibility of women of color in literature, thereby, improving her status in society." Subscribers to the "paperzine" are automatically associate members, entitled to special benefits.

Literary Xpress, Box 438583, Chicago, IL 60643. *Publisher:* Literary Exchange. *Editor-in-Chief:* Yaounde Olu. *Inception:* Summer 1987. *Frequency:* Quarterly. *Primary distribution area:* Chicago. *Subscription:* $10 year. *Page size:* 8½x11. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* No.

Party Goer

Party Goer, published monthly by Ernest Nolen, gives Chicago area residents and members of Nightlife, (a local organization) information of social activities and provides a directory to assist those just coming out.

The Party Goer, 843 W. Van Buren #106, Chicago, IL 60607, 312-642-6050. *Publisher:* Nightlife. *Editor:* Ernest Nolen. *Inception:* October 1990. *Frequency:* Monthly. *Primary distribution area:* Chicago. *Circulation:* 400, free. *Page size:* 8½x11. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* No.

Planet Roc

Planet Roc, edited by Simone Bouyer, has been written by and for Chicago area artists since January of 1989. Published by Wholesome Roc Gallery, Plant Roc contains not just gallery news, but information on local art shows, music events, film reviews, poetry, and even recipes. Planet Roc is the indispensable community link to art events ranging in subject matter from Kwanzaa to Women with AIDS.

Planet Roc, 1444 N. Greenview, Chicago, IL 60622, 312-252-1905. *Publisher:* Wholesome Roc Gallery. *Editor:* Simone Bouyer. *Inception:* January 1989. *Frequency:* Monthly. *Primary distribution area:* Chicago. *Circulation:* 1000, free. *Subscription:* $5 year. *Page size:* 7x8½. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* Yes.

Pyramid Periodical

Pyramid Periodical was started by Roy Gonsalves in 1986, providing with each issue an exciting collection of prose and poetry, plays, short stories, commentary, reviews and news relative to the lives of lesbians and gay men of color. Now being issued by Kafra Publishing Co., editor Rodney G. Dildy continues to produce the publication free of advertising. Pyramid has, throughout it's several editions, grown from a New York-based, all male publication to a lively multicultural, all-inclusive quality journal which incorporates a dizzying number of varieties of the English language all known to black lesbians and gay men.

Pyramid Periodical, Box 1111, New York, NY 10013-1111, 212-569-1518,

Fax: None. *Publisher:* Kafra Publishing Co., Inc. *Editor:* Rodney C. Diloy. *Inception:* 1986. *Frequency:* Quarterly. *Primary distribution areas:* U.S. and Canada. *Circulation:* 500, paid. *Single issue:* $5. *Subscription:* $16 year. *Page size:* 5½x8½. *Display ads:* No. *Classified ads:* No.

Quarterly Interchange

Quarterly Interchange publishes gay male fiction, non-fiction, poetry, politics, interviews and features providing a forum for adult men interested in interracial and cross-cultural relationships with other men. QI has been published since January 1988, nationwide, edited and published by Thom Bean who was until recently a member of the Out/Look board of directors.

Quarterly Interchange, Box 42502, San Francisco, CA 94101, 415-641-5706. *Fax:* 415-864-0351. *Publisher:* Thom Bean. *Editor:* Thom Bean. *Inception:* January 1988. *Frequency:* Quarterly. *Primary distribution area:* United States. *Single issue:* $10. *Subscription:* $20 year, outside U.S. add $4 year. Page *size:* 8½x11. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* Yes.

Rainbow Connections

Jacquie Bishop and Lidell Jackson are editors of Rainbow Connections, a new monthly lesbian and gay multicultural newsletter aimed at people of color in the New York Metropolitan area. Rainbow Connections will provide an opportunity for organizations and agencies in New York's incredibly diverse communities to get the word out on activities and events. In the words of Jacquie Bishop, "Sometimes we'll rant, sometimes we'll rave, sometimes we'll dish."

Rainbow Connections, 208 N. 13th St., New York, NY 10011, 212-827-6350, *Fax:* 212-736-7318. *Publisher:* Jacquie Bishop. *Editors:* Jacquie Bishop and Lidell Jackson. *Inception:* November 1990. *Frequency:* Monthly. *Primary distribution area:* New York metropolitan area. *Circulation:* 2,000, free. *Subscription:* $15 year. *Page size:* 8½x11. *Display ads:* No. *Classified ads:* No.

Real Read

The Real Read appeared in April 1989, providing a voice for lesbian and gay African-American prose, poetry and Afrocentric politics. Under the stewardship of co-editors Cleo Manago and the late Ron Grayson, whose untimely illness and subsequent death postponed the second issue, the Real Read is passionate and direct. The second issue is scheduled for late summer of 1991. Affiliated with the Black Men's Xchange and the Black Women's Xchange, the editors describe the Real Read as an "informational and non-conformist document designed to empower, apprise and celebrate the community with a multi-people, Afrocentrically-cultivated view of the nation and the world."

The Real Read, Box 8216, Inglewood, CA 90308, 213-281-7742. *Fax:* Call first. *Publisher:* Real Read Collective. *Editors:* Arthur Crump, Joe Hawkins, Cleo Manago, Rajer Southall and Sipho Nkosi. *Inception:* April 1989. *Frequency:* Bimonthly. *Primary distribution area:* Western U.S. *Single issue:* Free. *Subscription:* $24 year. *Page size:* 8x10. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* Yes.

South Bay Times

South Bay Times did not respond to our questionnaire. The following information, which was taken from the newspaper's August 1990 issue, is incomplete and may not be current.

Although not a black lesbian or black gay publication, the South Bay Times is included here because one of its co-owners, Whayne Herriford, is black. The South Bay Times of San Jose, now California's third largest city according to the 1990 census, provides a thorough community services directory and business directory covering the sprawling, three-county region, with a focus on the local news often left out of the San Francisco gay papers.

South Bay Times, 265 Meridian Ave. #6, San Jose, CA 95126, 408-496-8271. *Publishers:* Whayne Herriford and Richard Kendall. *Frequency:* Monthly. *Primary distribution area:* Northern California. *Page size:* 8½x11. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* No.

Thing

The phenomenon of underground magazines directed to the young and ultra-hip was for the most part a white world until Thing made its debut in November of 1989. Published out of Chicago by Robert Ford, it appears, in his words, "capriciously," with no regular schedule. It's guaranteed to be packed—when you can find it—with plenty of info on the underground arts scene, making visible the black presence among the shapers of the art world in the 21st Century. It's filled with politics, entertainment, art news, camp and commentary from a fresh new perspective, distributed in major cities across the country with a circulation of about 2,000.

Thing, 2151 W. Division, Chicago, IL 60622-3056, 312-276-0398. *Publisher:* Robert Ford. *Editors:* Robert Ford, Trent Adkins, Delon Strode, Lawrence Warren, Stephen Freshwater. *Inception:* November 1989. *Frequency:* Capriciously published. *Primary distribution area:* Chicago and bookstores in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Hollywood, Philadelphia, Washington, and Denver. *Circulation:* 2,000, paid. *Single issue:* $3. *Subscription:* $7 for three issues. *Page size:* 8x10¾. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* No.

Wimmin

Wimmin, the spinoff of B&G, does for New York's black lesbians what B&G does for men. Initiated with a circulation of 3,000, Wimmin will bring news of national importance to black lesbians along the Eastern seaboard, including poetry and information on arts, business and health. Editor Yvette Anderson in the opening editorial said, "We are different from any man I know and any straight woman in the world. We deserve our own title—Wimmin. This is who we are and will always be. This is our chance to hear each other's joy and feel each other's pain. This is the time to speak out and to listen; to differ and to let each other be." Of late, Wimmin has had publishing difficulties.

Wimmin, Box 1511, New York, NY 10276, 212-714-7747, 800-688-5401. *Associate Publisher and Editor-in-Chief:* Yvette Anderson. *Managing Editor:* Constance Wood. *Inception:* January 1991. *Frequency:* Monthly. *Primary distribution area:* East Coast. *Circulation:* 3,000, *free. Subscription:* $18 year, $30 two years, outside U.S. add $15 year. *Page size:* 8¼x10¾. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* Yes.

Note: The foregoing information was accurate to the best of our knowledge at press time. Please bring any inaccuracies or additions to our attention for a future update.

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Blacks Ponder Meaning of Dahmer

BY MARK HAILE,
BLK ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MILWAUKEE—There are two stories happening in Milwaukee. One is the gruesome discovery of the murders of mostly young, black men by a handsome, blond gay man who easily lured victims to his home. The other story is of the lurid reporting that is sweeping through the media worldwide, the brash insensitivity of the police and the inflammatory relationship between the races and straights and gays in a city not known for its tolerance.

The murders were more than sickening: they have spanned pages of sensational coverage, and a wave of hate and fear against gays in particular in the Milwaukee area.

Jeffrey L. Dahmer, 31, was charged with first degree intentional homicide in the first four murder counts to come out of the confessions given to Milwaukee police on July 22.

Dahmer, described as both racist and homophobic, confessed to murders as far back as 1978, drugging then strangling his victims before dismembering their bodies. Police in California, Illinois, Ohio, Indiana and Wisconsin are investigating whether Dahmer may be linked to unsolved murders and disappearances in the areas, above the 17 to which he has already confessed.

Neighbors had long complained of the odors coming from Dahmer's apartment, which he explained away as a failed refrigerator. Most of the men went there willingly with him, attracted by his good looks and quiet demeanor or promises of payment for photographing them. At least one man was invited over just for a "neighborly" beer.

Witnesses remember seeing Dahmer at bars in Chicago and Milwaukee, and gay pride celebrations in both cities. Yet he was far from happy about being gay, as witnesses have brought out, describing him as "a loner, distant and moody." The *Wisconsin Light* recounted how Dahmer was thrown out of the Milwaukee Club Baths in 1987 for drugging people in his private room, sending one man to the hospital for over a week. Said Bradley Babush who worked at the now defunct bathhouse, "the police talked to Dahmer and our staff, but none of the victims wanted to press charges."

Milwaukee Chief of Police Phillip Arreola lambasted the probation department for releasing Dahmer after serving ten months of a one to eight year sentence in 1989 for sexual assault on a teenager, then failing to supervise him while on probation. Arreola called it "a damning indictment" of the judicial system, but it was an eye opener into the sexist, racist homophobia of the police department even more so.

It was negligence by Milwaukee police that ultimately allowed Dahmer to continue his murder spree, although he was almost uncovered on May 27 of this year, when one victim managed to escape.

Two women called 911 while they protected the 14-year-old Konerak Sinthasomphone. They found him running down an alley, incoherent, naked, bleeding and beaten. Dahmer told officers who arrived on the scene that the youth was 19, merely drunk, and ran away after a lovers spat. Sinthasomphone was the brother of the youth that Dahmer had been arrested for assaulting two years earlier.

The police chose to believe the story of the white male over the two black women, and without talking to or examining the drugged youth closely, remanded him to Dahmer's custody. He was never seen alive again. Police never checked to see that Dahmer was on probation for sexual assault. They never ran a 'make' on him; they didn't even make a connection when the youth's family made a missing person's report.

The two women had even called repeatedly to officials requesting that some sort of follow-up be made. The transcripts of the women's frantic emergency call, and the offhand manner in which the officers jokingly dismissed the incidents, repleat with disparaging remarks, has since resulted in a controversy of its own, with three officers suspended over the matter for their breach of procedures pending an investigation. Dahmer went on killing—at least four more victims between that night and his arrest almost two months later.

Finally, one man did escape. Tracy Edwards, 32, found running down the street with handcuffs on, led police back to Dahmer's apartment where at least 11 victims were killed. Dahmer's confession led to the identification of all the victims whose mutilated body parts they found throughout the apartment, and six other victims whose remains were scattered about the countryside.

Prior to the grisly discovery, Milwaukee was already in the middle of a rise of gay bashing in the city, as is the case nationwide. A survey of customers conducted by the La Cage bar owner George Prentice found some 90 percent felt unsafe on the street outside local bars while they felt 100 percent safe once inside the club. No new polling has been undertaken to see how the Dahmer case may have changed that feeling, but security patrols, posters, and information about personal safety were being talked about as seriously as safe sex information once was.

The relationship between Milwaukee police and the gay community had long been dismal. Instead of assisting the gay community during the recent wave of bashings, the police raided a local Southside bar, arresting two dancers. Ironically, the men were performing during a benefit to raise funds for the victims of the bashing spree.

The heterosexual press has not been able to contain itself in regard to the sensationalist aspects of the story. A June 27 murder in Raymond, Wisc. prosecuted by Racine County District Attorney Lennie Webber was the result of what she called "homosexual overkill," where far more injuries were inflicted than necessary to cause death.

The phrase was picked up by the media and used in conjunction with the Dahmer case by the Milwaukee Chief of Police, even as activists denounced the term. Again and again, the coroners, prosecutors, police and news media have been told again that such references are illogical and unethical, and create distorted images in the eyes of the public of gays as murderers.

Local media continued to play up the murders as a "logical result of homosexual behavior," as Milwaukee lesbian journalist Jamakaya heard from Mark Belling of WISN Talk Radio.

'Tongues Untied' Goes National, but 17 Top PBS Stations Refuse to Air It

BY MARK HAILE,
BLK ASSOCIATE EDITOR

NEW YORK—*Tongues Untied*, the award-winning film documentary on gay black men, televised on the public television documentary series *P.O.V.* in July, came under attack for its graphic material and because its producer received a $5,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The hour-long film was on the PBS schedule for July 16 at 10 p.m. Public stations are not required to broadcast the programs provided by PBS, and they can change the scheduling of programs to best serve their own communities.

Seventeen stations in the top 50 markets chose in advance not to show it at all, and at least one station cancelled at the last minute.

Many stations, concerned about the film's material, chose not to show the film during prime time. Eleven stations delayed the broadcast until 11 p.m. or later. The two public stations in Washington, WETA and WHMM, aired it on July 19 at 11 p.m. Fears that donors to the stations would find the film offensive was the most commonly cited reason off the record for shelving the broadcast.

The producer, Marlon Riggs, 34 years old, who is himself gay and black and HIV positive, calls his film an affirmation of gay black life. He has called it an expression of "the vitality and significance of a community that traditionally has been silenced and ignored."

Riggs works in San Francisco and lectures at the University of California at Berkeley.

Tongues Untied is an amalgam of rap music, street poetry, documentary film and dance. It has scenes of partial nudity and of men kissing and is replete with profanity and racial and homosexual slurs. It is not, actually, sexually explicit.

Appearing on BET, prior to the broadcast, Riggs said, "What I wanted to sound off about was the theory, the torment, the rage, the triumphs and the passions, the struggles of black gay men to define their own identities on their own terms."

The strongest attack on the film has come from Rev. Donald E. Wildmon, the president of the American Family Association, a conservative media watchdog group based in Tupelo, Miss.

Instead of his usual practice of seeking to ban material he finds objectionable, Wildmon said he hoped *Tongues Untied* would be widely released. He said he had not seen the film but assumed most people would find it offensive.

"This is the first time millions of Americans will have an opportunity to see the kinds of things their tax money is being spent on," said Wildmon. "This is the first time there is no third party telling them what is going on; they can see for themselves."

"Most of the people who run public broadcasting institutions—public televisions stations in this country are white male heterosexuals," commented Riggs on BET, "and when you present a work that challenges their authority, that challenges their privilege, they get upset—and not only do they get upset, they want to ban the work, which they're doing."

Tongues Untied is no newcomer to television, shown last year by public television stations in San Francisco, New York and Los Angeles. None of these stations reported any unfavorable viewer reaction.

This time around, the film is being shown as part of *P.O.V.* (for "point of view"), an award-winning series of independently produced nonfiction films.

The *P.O.V.* series received $250,000 of its $1.1 million budget this year from the National Endowment for the Arts. In addition to his regional endowment grant, Riggs received $3,000 from the Film Arts Foundation. Most of the film's $40,000 cost came from donated equipment and volunteer help.

The film was voted best documentary at the Berlin International Film Festival, best independent/experimental work by the Los Angeles Film Critics and best video at the New York documentary Film Festival, among other awards.

The film has been commissioned for public television broadcasts in England, Spain, Australia and Sweden. It has been screened at film festivals around the world, including Edinburgh, Scotland; Melbourne, Australia; Cophenhagen, Denmark; Dublin, Ireland; and Riga, Latvia.

Riggs had previously won an Emmy for *Ethnic Notions*, a film about black stereotypes, shown on PBS in 1989.

Among the top markets that appeared on what *Los Angeles Times* critic Howard Rosenberg referred to as "The Wimp List," were WEDU, Tampa, Fla.; KCPT, Kansas City, Mo.; WMVS, Milwaukee, Wis.; Oklahoma Educational TV; Iowa Public Television; WTVS, Detroit, Mich.; Channel 8, Nashville, Tenn.; WTVI, Charlotte, N.C.; ETV, Columbia, S.C.; WHRO, Norfolk, Va.; WVIA, Pittson, Pa.; WITF, Harrisburg, Pa.; KOAP, Portland, Ore.; WFYI, Indianapolis, Ind.; KETV, Lesington, Ky.; KUON, Lincoln, Neb.; Alabama Public TV; WOSU, Columbus, Ohio; WMEB, Bangor, Me.; WCBB, Lewiston, Me.; WMAA, Jackson, Miss.; and KUHT, Houston, Tex.

Cincinnati, the center of the controversy last year over the public display of the photographs of Robert Mapplethorpe, viewed *Tongues Untied* there during prime time on WCET.

"We chose to air the *P.O.V.* series," said Jack Dominic, a senior vice president of the station, "and we chose to run it in prime time. We're not going to put this one show on at a different hour. That would be a cop-out."

"I don't think small children or even young teen-agers should watch the program," he said. "It's not the kind of show I'd sit down and watch myself. But that's why people have 'on' and 'off' buttons. Choosing what people should watch—that's not the business we're in."

In Detroit, WTVS Channel 56 was going to delay the broadcast until 11:30 p.m., then decided not to air the documentary altogether. The programming manager was quoted as saying, "...it's definitely not family

viewing."

The National Association of Black and White Men Together, meeting in Detroit, organized a protest in reaction to the film stance taken by the station, which lead to WTVS Channel 56 President Robert Larson and Vice President of Communications Paula Sulinski agreeing to meet with gay activists.

Despite the willingness of the majority of the staff at the Detroit station to broadcast the film, Larson decided the film's depictions and descriptions of sexual activity made it "an issue of suitability...to allow that language to go on the air doesn't do our station credit."

Representatives from the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays (NCBLG), the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention of the NABWMT and the NABWMT national co-chairs meeting with Larson and Sulinski resulted in an agreement that programming concerning black gay issues is appropriate for the station.

Larson remained unmoved about showing *Tongues Untied* in July, but agreed to work with community representatives "to find suitable programming." He proposed the possibility of hosting a focus group that would reflect the WTVS viewing audience to view the video.

The conference participants organized a sizeable picket line at WTVS studios on June 28, bringing attention to the lack of visibility of gay people of color in broadcast media in general, and the struggle to air *Tongues Untied* in particular.

In Atlanta, the showing became the second highest rated program in local public broadcasting history, after the PBS series on the Civil War.

The Georgia media had generated a great deal of publicity about the program as it is Riggs's home state. Atlanta activist Maurice Franklin told BLK that "folks were shocked by *Tongues Untied,*" but impressions made by the program ran deep, with the community making an all out "phone assault" to call the stations airing the broadcast to reaffirm their support.

Between 800 and 1000 calls had poured into Georgia Public Television and Atlanta Public Television before and after the showing. The calls at last report were running about 50/50 for and against the program.

In Milwaukee, however, WMVS/WMVT channels 10/36 decided that Wisconsin just wasn't ready to admit that black gay men exist. Acting general manager Bryce Combs asked that an edited version of the video be provided with "offensive" language and scenes be deleted. While there is no actual frontal nudity or sex in the video, some of the descriptions of anal sex were "just too graphic" for "community standards."

The descriptions of rampant prejudice, racist and homophobic violence, marginalization and dehumanizing of black gay men were not acknowledged as offensive, although Combs agreed that "lifestyle messages need to be told."

The Milwaukee Gay/Lesbian Cable Network blasted the decision as "racist, homophobic censorship," and are negotiating to bring the video to public access cable.

Riggs dismissed the criticisms offered by stations as to why they could not show the video, telling BLK, "these people have no notion of what black gay men are about or feel."

"For me, none of this is discouraging, as some of our issues are finally on the agenda...They have to acknowledge our experience," Riggs commented to BLK. He was especially appreciative of the assistance of many non-gay, non-black groups who fought to keep *Tongues Untied* on the air. "It's very empowering for me to see many organizations, *ad hoc* groups, institutions, coming in to support the work," he said.

In Houston, the Southwest Alternative Media Project, DiverseWorks Artspace and the Community Artists' Collective have negotiated with the Museum of Fine Arts to present the video on Thursday, Aug. 1 at 7:30 p.m. for free.

In Tampa, an unprecedented meeting of WEDU's community advisory board vetoed the video after seeing only the first 20 minutes.

"It is a real sensitive film," said spokesperson Christina Beyer for corporate communications, "and people who saw it at the station hope that its audience will find it. This is not New York, and it makes no sense to pretend it is something else. We factored the community standards and felt this film was not acceptable."

"The question such critics never ask," retorted Riggs, "because the answers are profoundly revealing, is: *whose* community and *whose* standards?"

Sixty percent of all the calls received at WMFE, Orlando, Fla., were against showing the film, but the board of trustees stood behind station manager Ben Hardcastle, who said, "we have a commitment to air controversial material."

The controversy flaired in the arts and entertainment section of newspapers across the country until it ended up in the editorial pages as well.

Conservative columnist James J. Kilpatrick asked, "Why does the NEA persist in this kind of grossly offensive 'art.' There is no way *Tongues Untied* could qualify as a production with 'substantial artistic and cultural significance'."

Atlanta Constitution critic Dick Williams told Georgia to "listen up ...You must not leave your television or VCR to vomit," encouraging viewers watch what "their" taxpayers dollars had presented, assuming they would agree with him that the documentary was "without a doubt, the most explicit, profane program ever broadcast by a television network."

Williams said "the program belongs in a homosexual bath house and Mr. Riggs has every right to show it there. He has no right or legitimate claim to 'our' tax dollars or 'our' networks."

Williams's own paper, however, in its editorial noted that in light of the controversy, "all the more reason to applaud Atlanta's two public stations, WPBA and WGTV, for having the courage to air it. For *Tongues Untied* is television of high quality.

"This does not deny anyone the right to be shocked or offended by the film. But the outcry against it does bear examination. What seems to upset people like the Rev. Donald Wildmon is less the dirty words and homoerotic images than the fact that public funds have been expended to offer a positive portrayal of a lifestyle they regard as an abomination...For those with eyes to see and ears to hear, it is a work of high moral purpose."

Riggs noted that, "minorities might be granted the right to speak and be heard, but only if we abide by the 'master codes' of courteous speech, proper subject matter, conventional aesthetics and 'mainstream' appeal. Disobey this often unwritten rule and you risk banishment into cultural obli-

vion."

Riggs referred to a work of James Baldwin that described the "aim of white Americans was to refashion the Negro face after their own, and failing that, to make the black face 'blank'."

Riggs continued, "straight America, black as well as white, now demands much of the same of homosexual men and women: to win majority acceptance, we are asked to represent ourselves in ways which, in effect, reaffirm the majority's self-image of privilege. The alternative is erasure."

While many of those defending the broadcast admitted they had trouble with the content, a few suggested that the film might "backfire" against the black gay community. Courtland Milloy, writing in the *Washington Post*, expressed his fear that, "by ignoring the heterosexual audience, the film misses a chance to contribute to changing the hostile climate that keeps black homosexuals in their closets. Achieving that goal should have been a priority." He offered that, "Riggs's film would have been more useful if he had dealt more fully with community attitudes that force black gay men to perpetrate such frauds." Milloy summed up his feelings on the film and Riggs's HIV status by stating, "by the time Riggs is ready to make a film that might help viewers like me better understand gay guys like himself, it could be too late."

Veteran critic Rosenberg had a much firmer grasp on the purpose of the video, and the controversy surrounding its airing, saying, "It is poetic, lyrical, poignant, funny, rapping, street-talking raw art that may, however, nourish homophobia even as it seeks to drive a spike through its heart. That remains to be seen."

On the furor over content, Rosenberg said, "but even *The Love Boat* had more sex and, on any given day, your favorite daytime soap opera is infinitely more sizzling.

"The difference is that the loving, gentle contact here is between men."

Rosenberg boldly, stated what few newspapers remembered to mention, "Kilpatrick had not seen *Tongues Untied* when he wrote that Riggs's award-ladden film was 'grossly offensive.'

"The Rev. Donald E. Wildmon... hadn't seen it either when he promised that most of the nation would find it 'offensive'."

Rosenberg pointed out, in regard to the reactions of the television stations, "the dropout total affirms one of the depressing ironies of PBS: that many inside the system have little understanding of what public TV is about, oblivious to the fact that its mandate is to challenge viewers, not sedate them."

Conferred *Washington Post* staff writer David Mills, "The only thing *Tongues Untied* promotes is a deeper understanding of our world. Viewers who think they simply can't deal with the sight of two shirtless men rolling around in bed in slow motion, well, perhaps they should consider this an instructive dose of reality."

The unexpected attention from the nationwide sensationalism around the two-year-old video came at an inopportune time for Riggs, working to finish his feature length documentary, *Color Adjustment*. The follow-up to his *Ethnic Notions* will throw the black images on prime time television back into America's face. Riggs has also been awarded his third NEA grant—for another film on homophobia, sexism and racism—promising that there will be plenty for the self-appointed watch dogs of America to complain about for some time to come.

Black Men's Xchange Holds First Retreat

COMPTON—The Black Men's Xchange, (BMX) held its first annual national retreat and conference July 12-14.

In the forefront of business conducted, the Oakland chapter of the organization was designated to become the BMX national headquarters. The Denver and Minneapolis chapters were welcomed as the newest branches of the organization.

"BMX is now able to forge a national agenda of black gay empowerment," said Joe Hawkins, who will run the national office in Oakland.

There were about 30 representatives from various chapters attending the retreat, the first gay event of this magnitude to be held in Compton.

"We as black gay men and women should not be subjected to (alienation) from our own people," noted Robert Jones from BMX/Sacramento. "We have a lot to offer our community. We are intelligent, we are talented, we are caring and all we want to do is come back home and work with people we are about."

Jones and Hawkins have given the Sacramento chapter a high visibility in the region, interfacing with black non-gay organizations.

After breakfast, participants attended a number of workshops focusing on the development of BMX: outreach and recruitment, development strategies for new chapters, organizing speaker's bureaus and getting local political groups to include a black gay agenda.

Greg Coleman, chair of the conference's host chapter, BMX/Los Angeles, said, "We have been very successful at creating avenues of communication between black gays and lesbians and the mainstream African-American community and are confident that this will lead to a more empowered black community."

Following dinner, the participants attended a presentation of *Fierce Love*. The Sunday session dealt largely with HIV issues and planning for the next retreat.

Cleo Manago, founder and organizer of BMX described the group as, "Afrocentric, meaning black in concept, design and implementation, and taking a holistic approach, designed to aid in healing the external as well as the internal wounds that years of denial and unacceptance has caused us to heap upon ourselves."

Pannell Cops Ward 8 Seat

WASHINGTON—Phil Pannell has been elected chair of the Washington Ward 8 Democratic Committee, defeating several other widely known politicians. Pannell will now have a seat on the Democratic Party State Committee, only the fourth gay person to do so.

His first action on the citywide state committee, said Pannell, will be to introduce a resolution calling for an appeal of the District sodomy law.

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Black Caucus Gets AIDS Information

BY MARK HAILE,
BLK ASSOCIATE EDITOR

WASHINGTON—A Capital Hill hearing room was packed on July 16 for the unprecedented meeting of the U.S. Congressional Black Caucus on AIDS in the African-American community.

While a scheduling conflict with the Democratic Party prevented most members of the Congressional Black Caucus from attending personally, most sent aides, or were briefed in full before hand and later on. The individual rating records of the Caucus make it one of the highest ranked groups among members of Congress on AIDS related issues.

The purpose of the briefing was to have the Caucus as a whole take on a leadership role in bringing HIV treatment, education and other services into the African-American community.

The briefing was organized and chaired by Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.) with Anita Taylor, director of the public policy program of the National Minority AIDS Council and the assistance of the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention and Belinda Rochelle, health issues lobbyist of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Also speaking at the briefing were Reggie Williams, Executive Director of the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention; Brenda V. Smith, National Task Force on AIDS Prevention; Dr. Janet Mitchell, Chief of Perinatology, Harlem Hospital; Harlon Dalton, of the National Commission on AIDS; Rashidah Hassan, founder of Blacks Educating Blacks About Sexual Health Issues; and Dr. Wibert Jordan, of Drew-King Medical Center in Los Angeles.

Rep. Waters was pleased with the level of commitment that members of the Black Caucus are offering in HIV issues. "I think you find good support here," Rep. Waters told BLK. "We walked away with members willing to take this issue on as their issue." She said that HIV issues will be a prominent topic at the Congressional Black Caucus Weekend, where legislative strategies will be hammered out in depth.

Waters noted that there are no members of the Caucus who have introduced anything less than sensible legislation on HIV related issues. She saw the coalition building around HIV concerns picking up steam, pointing out the participation of Rep. Connie Morella (R-Md.) who has introduced legislation on women and HIV.

"The impact of AIDS on the African-American community will be catastrophic if we do not begin to address critical health care issues," said Rochelle at the briefing. "We need a voice and we need leadership."

Anita Taylor was pleased to see the issue of HIV more out of the committee structure and onto the "front burner" position. "My goal was to get together the leaders to take the initiative, to take a leadership role," she told BLK.

Rochelle concurred that the Congressional Black Caucus is "Very much in our corner when it comes to our issues." The briefing was hardly an overnight success, the groundwork having been laid shortly after the February release of the controversial Veterans Administration's HIV study.

In virtually all of the testimony offered, activists pointed out the speed at which HIV has risen to being one of the major causes of death for women, for infants, and as restated by Dr. Mitchell, "The most disenfranchised of the disenfranchised." She noted the chilling effect government cutbacks have had in public hospitals, such as her own Harlem Hospital Center where 20 percent of the patients at any given time are there for HIV related conditions. She was quite familiar "that medicine was not and is not exempt from institutional racism." She reiterated that "the problems in our health care delivery system that AIDS brings to the forefront have existed for decades. If AIDS was to disappear tomorrow, these problems would still exist."

Reggie Williams charged, "The African-American community as a whole remains in a state of widespread denial around the existence, much less the exploding incidence of HIV infection within its ranks." To counter that denial, Williams said that, "Such education must begin at the top from the most visible, important leaders in the African-American community. That means you."

Williams, exasperated at being distracted from the course of carrying out his job of HIV education because of the timidity of government officials in discussing how to save the lives of black gay men testified, "Homophobia is like an elephant in the living room of the black community's home, which everyone must deal with in their daily comings and goings, but which no one will discuss."

Rep. Donald Payne (D-N.J.), exemplified how an individual member of the Congressional Black Caucus was already well acquainted with how HIV has impacted his home district, which includes the cities of Newark and Orange. Rep. Payne was among the first members of the Caucus to convene a hearing of local organizations, health care providers and activists in March to bring testimony to Washington on how HIV has so disproportionately impacted the black community.

As Taylor repeated from her testimony, "This should only be the beginning of a powerful union between our elected national leaders and our advocates for adequate health care and social change."

BMX in Denver Charges Racism

DENVER—A letter from the Denver Black Men's Xchange to local media has charged the Matchmaker, a downtown Denver dance club, with racial discrimination and condoning "the use and distribution of illicit drugs."

While the charges of racism are not new, said BMX, the form of discrimination is. Allegedly, staff members are applying a one-drink minimum in an un-even manner, ejecting black patrons who do not immediately purchase a beverage.

Matchmaker manager Pete Keegan was surprised at the allegations, denying any policy aimed at black men. The staff has been directed to keep hustlers out of the bar, as well as any one suspected of dealing drugs, he said.

The downtown bar is in the vicinity of Denver's crack alleys, an area popular with young prostitutes.

Black Men's, Women's Retreats Planned

LOS ANGELES—United Lesbians of African Heritage has announced a retreat, Sistahfest, for the Oct. 4-6 weekend. The event, themed "On Common Ground," will include sports, games, ceremonies, poetry readings, cultural activities, workshops and entertainment. Dancing on Saturday night's "Club ULOAH" will be provided by well-known "Claudette Sexy DJ."

Sistahfest will take place at the Cottontail Ranch in a secluded canyon above Malibu, with a capacity of 200 participants.

Organizers have made very attempt to make the event as accommodating as possible to women with special considerations. A variety of vegetarian and non-vegetarian meals will be provided and ULOAH has a scholarship program to assist as many women as possible to attend.

That same weekend, the Black Gay Men's Retreat will take place at Camp Seely Valcrest in the San Bernardino mountains. The men's retreat, limited to 60 black gay men, will allow ample time for leisure activities between workshops on self-esteem, sexuality, self-empowerment and heterosexism, among other topics.

Leisure activities will include hiking, archery, swimming and volleyball, with a Saturday night talent show and dance.

More information on Sistahfest is available at 213-960-5051, and for Brother to Brother at 213-666-5495.

Mason Quits Council Race

BOSTON—Abner Mason announced an early withdrawal from the race for the Boston City Council on July 26. The first openly gay African-American in that city to run for elected office, a number of factors apparently contributed to his decision to formally withdraw.

The Boston Board of Elections had received 897 verified signatures as of July 31, of the 1,500 necessary to run for an at-large city council seat.

Mason's candidacy was further complicated by his being an upfront Republican, which many activists vocally found problematic at best, or hypocritical at their most vitriolic.

Mason received many important endorsements in his first bid for public office, including that of city councilor David Scondras, the Log Cabin Republican Club, the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights and the Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus.

Mason has endorsed Roxbury District 7 city councilor Bruce Bolling, considered a front runner in the race. Mason said he had met with Bolling, and found him to be an "established and accomplished advocate" of African-Americans as well as lesbians and gay men, and would work on behalf of his campaign.

CDC July Statistics on AIDS Cases in U.S.

	White (not Latino)		Black (not Latino)		Latino		Asian/Pacific Islander		Amer. Indian/ Askan. Native		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
MALE												
Gay and bisexual contact	74,866	80	18,088	44	11,566	46	836	82	144	62	105,741	65
Straight IV drug use	6,170	7	14,637	36	9,700	39	32	3	27	12	30,641	19
Gay and bisexual contact, and IV drug use	6,830	7	3,220	8	1,700	7	24	2	37	16	11,823	7
Hemophilia and coagulation disorder	1,242	1	105	0	120	0	17	2	8	3	1,497	1
Straight contact	690	1	2,838	7	428	2	9	1	5	2	3,976	2
Receipt of blood transfusion, blood components or tissue	1,806	2	379	1	229	1	46	5	2	1	2,471	2
Other and undetermined	2,034	2	1,912	5	1,289	5	57	6	9	4	5,344	3
Male subtotal	93,638	100	41,179	100	25,032	100	1,021	100	232	100	161,493	100
FEMALE												
IV drug use	1,971	41	5,341	56	1,901	50	15	16	18	53	9,263	51
Hemophilia and coagulation disorder	28	1	6	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	38	0
Straight contact	1,425	30	3,134	33	1,412	37	33	35	9	26	6,035	33
Receipt of blood transfusion, blood components or tissue	997	21	324	3	197	5	28	30	4	12	1,554	9
Other and undetermined	343	7	691	7	252	7	17	18	3	9	1,311	7
Female subtotal	4,764	100	9,496	100	3,766	100	93	100	34	100	18,201	100
Total	98,402		50,675		28,798		1,114		266		179,694	

Source: "Adult/Adolescent AIDS Cases by Sex, Exposure Category and Race/Ethnicity Reported through June 1991, United States," U.S. Centers for Disease Control. HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, July 1991.

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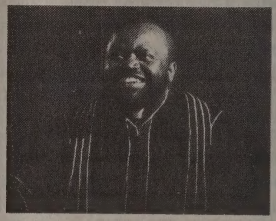

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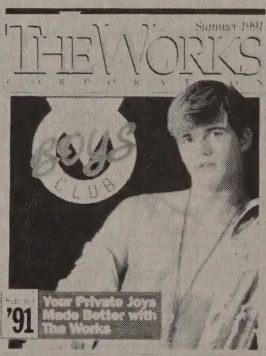

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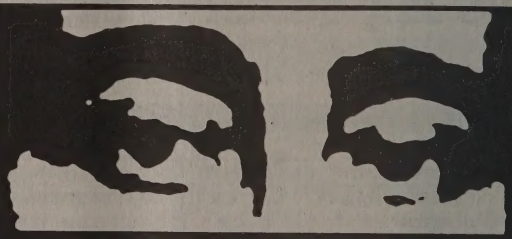

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BOOKS

BY ALAN E. MILLER

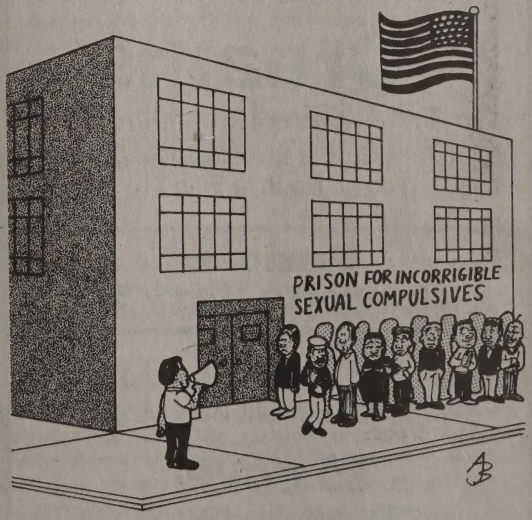
In this new column, I plan to review some books at length, others rather cursorily, but I do intend to give each a thorough reading. (That some of them will be *read* more thoroughly than others is one of the hazards and delights of reviewing them. More on that later.) I'll use this space to pass on inquiries for writers, gossip about the books that writers are planning and to announce signing tours and public appearances. This column is a response to a need, to the reality that more black lesbians and gays and others are writing and publishing books of interest to our community.

So far most of the books I've received are by men, but I really want to know and review writing by women. And I'd also like to hear from women interested in being reviewers. It was women writers who literally nurtured my own writing. While a high school student in Chicago, I met State of Illinois Poet Laureate Gwendolyn Brooks through a contest she sponsored at my neighborhood library. Shortly thereafter, I met Sonia Sanchez, who insisted on taking me to readings, mostly benefits for the Black Panthers, Mark Clark, Fred Hampton, *et al.* As a high school teacher, and as a lifelong reader and writer, I'll be writing what I believe we need to hear and know about the state of books.

Conferences have become increasingly important to us. The National Black Gay and Lesbian Conferences have become increasingly valuable to writers and other artists. It's a place of networking, sharing and encouragement. The Out/Write Conferences (sponsored by *Out/Look* magazine) boasted a strong black lesbian and gay presence, last year perhaps more than this year, in which some attendees complained that Latinas and Latinos seemed to be the flavor of the month. Remember the statement that Joe Beam and Barbara Smith presented to that National Conference of Black Writers three years ago? I have recently read a dynamite short story by Randy Boyd, a writer I met at this year's Out/Write. His short story "Hostage" is included in *Certain Voices*, an anthology of "short stories about gay men." (Randy just completed a novel, by the way, which is now making the rounds of the publishers.) Randy's story describes what happens when a brother tries to return home as a gay man to a family that has always belittled him. The protagonist brings along a gun to make sure that everybody's listening. Y'all hear?! The anthology, edited by Darryl Pilcher and published by Alyson Press for $8.95, also includes a short story by Larry Duplechan, whose main character laments in his contribution that "just a week ago Thursday I was chicken." Indeed!

Another writer I met this spring at both BGLLF and Out/Write, Steven Corbin, encouraged me to look closely at *Breaking Ice: An Anthology of Contemporary African-American Fiction* (edited by Terry McMillan, Penguin Books, $10.95 paper). What I found was that at least five of the 57 contributors were openly gay or lesbian—not to mention another seven or eight who are rumored to be on the q.t. Besides Corbin's own story, Becky Birtha has a funny, insightful offering about a black lesbian who is coming of age—could her "Johnnieruth" be the beginning of a longer work? I hope so—and Samuel Delany, Melvin Dixon, and Randall Kenan also are included. (Birtha's new book of short stories, *Lover's Choice*, Seal Press, $8.95, which opens with her contribution to *Ice*, just arrived and will be reviewed in the next column.) By the way, novelist Kenan (*A Visitation of Spirits*, Grove Weidenfeld, 1989) reviewed Dixon's novel *Vanishing Rooms* (Dutton, $18.95) in a recent issue of *Emerge* magazine. I won't lie and say I can't put it down, but I will tell you that I didn't want to. More later.

School will be starting soon so it's a good time to discuss children's books. Alyson Press is now publishing a line of very important books for children, appropriately called Alyson Wonderland Books. These include two books by Michael Willhoite,



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Daddy's Roommate ($14.95), and a coloring book called *Families* which sensitively and humorously depicts many types of families, including gay and lesbian families, families of all ethnicities, extended families and families created by divorce—not to mention the bluejay and duck families. Hmmmmm. This series has already received a great deal of favorable publicity. Leslea Newman has also written two books for them, *Heather Has Two Mommies* ($6.95, paper), and *Gloria Goes to Gay Pride* ($7.95, paper). These books are doing a great job of depicting many types of gay people, including us! The most interesting, written by two white lesbians, Ann Heron and Meredith Maran, is called *How would you feel if your Dad was gay?* The illustrations depict a black gay male couple who share custody of two children, a boy and a girl. It was really heartwarming to read this book, to see those pictures. Reading these books with your children, your siblings, your nieces and nephews is what will bring the revolution closer to reality. I do wonder, however: How many of us black gay and lesbian writers are writing for this market, for our community in this way? Write and let me know.

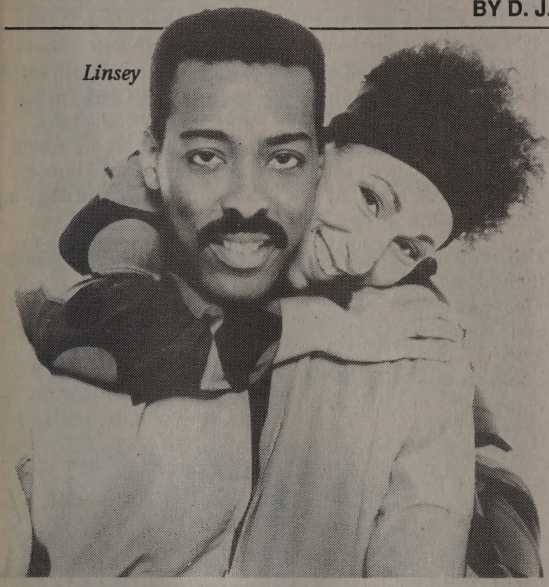
The next anthology is my favorite. *BloodWhispers: L.A. Writers on AIDS* contains many types of writing —poems, eulogies, memoirs, performance pieces, short fiction—and its contributors are, reflecting the spread and impact of the disease, all kinds. Terry Wolverton edited this moving and often startling collection that features pieces by Mark Haile and Ayofemi Folayan; published by Silverton Press, it sells for $7.95. This is a wonderful book. Buy it. Read it. Buy more of them and give them away!

Finally, as most of you are aware, *Brother to Brother* (Alyson Books, paper, a steal at $8.95) is here and there and everywhere. Essex Hemphill, Marlon Riggs and myself staged a very successful reading from the collection in San Francisco. (Marlon stuck a gardenia behind his ear while reading Charles Henry Fuller's short story "The Jazz Singer," which I quickly called a "dangerous precedent.") It was great fun. With many more readings to follow in bars as well as bookstores, who knows what will happen? Essex will be zipping around the country to spread the word. *Brother to Brother* is the number three selling gay book in the United States now and will soon be starting a second printing. There's meat for your table in this anthology. It's all there, all four food groups. This important book isn't just poetry and stories, but essays, interviews, and a very useful bibliography of books, journals and periodicals by black gay authors and publishers. Within two days of receiving the book, I had completed it. We're all here, including Rory Buchanan, the star reader of this year's *Brother to Brother* reading at the BGLLF. (Rory, by the way, should be finishing his book soon.) I'd like to personally thank contributor Don Charles for giving me something to read.

'Til next time, keep reading and writing.

MUSIC

BY D. J. MARIUS



Linsey

LINSEY
"Perfect Love"
(Virgin)

The well traveled territories of jazz and R&B get a fresh take on life from the performing duo Linsey. Love is the theme brought forward, not only on the album, but in real life as well. A strong love of music united their talents, and a stronger love united Lynne and Wayne Linsey in marriage.

Their debut album, *Perfect Love*, is an excellent showcase for what has become, for both, a varied musical career. Lynne, a graduate of the Berklee School of Music in Boston, has recorded with Anita Baker and Nancy Wilson. She has also toured with Stevie Wonder and Bill Withers. Wayne started playing in night clubs at the age of 14, and studied later at Howard University. He first recorded with the band Starpoint, then with Bobby Brown and the Winans. He then went on the road with, among others, Aretha Franklin and Randy Crawford.

A pleasurable listening experience, the album is also a family affair. Wayne plays most of the album's instruments, and Lynne supplies the lead vocals and handles the vocal arrangements. On the superb cut "Searchin'," her voice echoes the soft, innocent sensuality of Patrice Rushen and Minnie Riperton.

The introspective "It's Not A Waste Of Time," which features a passionate guest vocal turn from Withers, has gotten considerable radio airplay. Other standouts include the laid back "Bring It Back," and the touching "U R Loved."

BRAND NEW HEAVIES
"Brand New Heavies"
(Delicious Vinyl)

Take five talented musicians: saxophonist Jim Wellman, drummer/keyboardist Jan Kincaid, percussionist/guitarist Lascelles Gordon, guitarist Simon Bartholomew, and bassist Andrew Levy. Add a modernized version of vintage 70s funk, and you have the London-born quintet the Brand New Heavies. Mixing the funk with a dance music edge and components of "acid jazz," the band has quickly become a popular live act within England's club curcuit, playing with groups such as Soul II Soul and the Pasadenas.

A strong retrospective feel is apparent, not only in the band's style of dress, but in musical attitude as well. Featured vocalist N'Dea Davenport adds an element of soulful credibility. Her clear, strong singing style provides a sultry touch to the funky jazz mix.

Some great instrumental pieces are to be found here, but the album's more solid cuts feature Davenport's vocals. Check out the album's strongest track, "Never Stop," and "Ride In The Sky," which echoes Tower of Power's best work. This debut project is definitely worth listening to—you may end up believing that the Brand New Heavies are, as their press material states, "what the future should sound like... love, having a good time, and raw, pure funk."

INNOCENCE
"Belief"
(Chrysalis)

British soulsters keep coming fast and strong on the American music scene. The debut album by Innocence, *Belief*, shows the strength of the Brits to reinterpret the African American art form known the world over as soul music.

This impressive first effort from London's up-and-coming production team of Anna and Mark Jolley and Brian Harris has a strong dance feel, while maintaining a constant R&B energy. This holds true the band's aim to create music as listenable as it is danceable.

Providing an outstanding vocal performance, lead singer Gee Morris takes the record to another level. Morris started singing at 14 and clearly has the talent to become one of music's reigning divas.

Full of songs for every mood, some of the album's highs include the dance-floor-friendly first single, "Let's Push It," (don't miss the remix!) and the pulsating anti-apartheid cut "Natural Thing." The jazzy, brooding "Silent Voice," Morris explains, speaks to "the silence of children, innocent parties who can't do anything for themselves in an adult world."

THE RULES OF THE GAME

BY EMANUEL

The other day I was thinking about the first job I had when I moved to the big city. Little me, young, cute and ready to start my career with one of the largest companies in the state. My first day on the job I walked into this huge room and there sat about 45 young women and four ancient old men. You know, the grandfatherly type.

After about four days on the job, I started hearing little rumors that Janice liked me. Then I heard Belinda liked me. Then Cheryl. Of course the usual questions followed. Are you married? Do you have a girlfriend? Do you date? You "gotta" car? I was quite nervous answering these questions, yet I was flattered at the same time.

The kind women just threw their hands up in the air and finally asked, "Are you a faggot?"

I had no idea what to do when all of these women started liking me. At the time, I still had one foot stuck in the closet door. To me, my career was on the line. I thought revealing my sexual preference at the time could have been detrimental to my future advancement with this company.

Yeah, I know, there are some of us that learned to snap and say "Miss Thing" as soon as we peaked out of that closet. You thought liking boys and being a sissy went hand in hand. (Let me assure you that this article is definately not a condemnation of effeminate men. To each his own).

I can remember at 13 discovering how good it felt to lay on top of my buddy, Raymond.

Well, Raymond figured that since he liked boys, this was his ticket to twisting his hips, trying his sister's nail polish and make-up on, snapping his fingers, bringing his voice two decibels higher and still saying, "Oh, my mother doesn't know I'm gay." Soon the whole neighborhood was saying, "That boy is going to grow up to be a punk." Child—the neighborhood was right.

Anyway, back on the job. One day I was invited to lunch by four of the women. I knew I should have declined because I figured this was "Let's Dissect Him Day." I was scared to death. How do I tell them? What do I say? Will they run back and tell everyone? Should I start "flaming" and let them figure it out for themselves? Well, I'm not too happy to let you know now—I lied. Told them my girlfriend lived in another state and I was totally devoted to her. I sat my sister's picture on my desk—thank goodness we don't look alike—gave her a new name and told everyone this was my "old lady." After a while, they started to ask when was she coming to visit.

Today, I definitely would handle that situation differently. I'm older, more established and quite comfortable with my homosexuality. Now I can sit you down, let you know my sexual preference and have you standing up cheering, ready to walk the picket lines for lesbian and gay rights.

My past experiences have taught me not to hassle younger gays that are still in the closet. They too have their future to think about and are still uncomfortable with the world knowing whom they sleep with. I, too, felt that that was not the time to "come out."

I've been told by some gay activists that I should let my employer and whoever else know about my sexual preference from day one. I disagree. I never hear heterosexuals letting their preference be known from jump street. That old saying "There is a time and a place for everything" holds true in this instance. Did you let your college buddies know right off that you were gay? The first day on the job, did you let your employer know? No, most of us waited until we gained their confidence and respect.

Of course sometimes things are better left unsaid. Example: as I turned thirtysomething I realized my body needed a facelift. I looked around and chose a health spa which suited my needs—boys, boys, and more boys. I have become quite friendly and close with some of the guys at the spa and they think I'm just another one of the boys. Mind you, these are young men you'd forsake house, car, job, family, and dog for. They ask me to work out with them, to "spot" them, and "Did you see that 'fine mama' on the aerobics floor?"

A couple of them have asked me to go to "straight" clubs with them. One has asked me out to lunch twice, and another wants me to meet his wife and baby. Kenny (not his real name) has asked me if I've dated any of the women at the spa or in the church that we both belong to. What am I supposed to say, "No, but I've been wanting you though!"?

Yes I'll admit, I first started talking to Kenny because he is simply gorgeous. I just don't feel it is necessary to "out" myself with him or anyone else at the spa. I didn't put on a butch-act to gain their acceptance. I never commented on the women's fine asses either. I have simply been myself.

The bottom line is, when you feel absolutely comfortable with yourself and the people around you, then you hold your torch up like "Miss Liberty." "Out" yourself when you get ready.

Now I must stop here to go pick up my 16 and 19-year-old nephews who just the other day asked me how many girlfriends I have...

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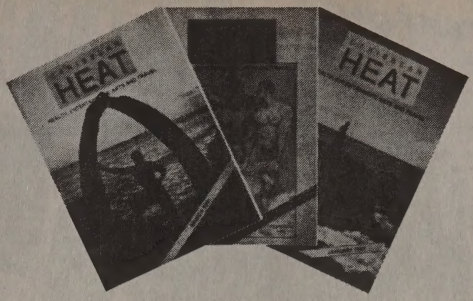

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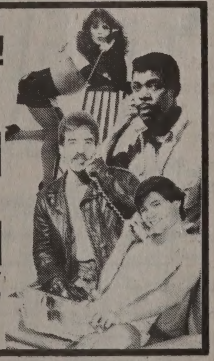

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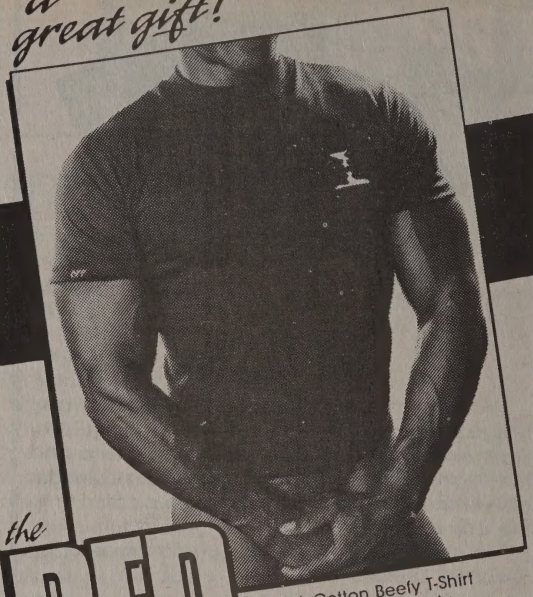

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READ MY LIPS

BY PRESTON E. GUIDER

With **Whitney** beating her on the charts and **Whitfield** routing her on the screen, **Miss Ross** has long needed a new plan. And, now Lynn Whitfield cops a Best Actress Emmy? What *is* that we smell burning?...**Denis Carney,** one of the dreadlocked heartthrobs at the National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference, appears in *The Black Bag,* a British TV production about homophobia in black and Asian communities...Meanwhile back in Massachusetts, **Abner Mason** and his partner of six years, **Joseph White,** spoke at a rally in support of a state bill that would legalize marriage between same sex couples. Mason was an openly gay candidate for the Boston City Council... Why is it we seem to be the only ones who were upset with a display at San Francisco's multi-AIDS agency gift shop, whose proceeds go help, among others, homeless people with AIDS? The T-shirt in question says in bold print, "No, I don't have a quarter"... Washington's **Brass Rail** donated $1,175 to **ICAN** last month. The money was collected from patrons during the club's live shows...International Mr. Leather **'D' Cannon,** back from judging the first deaf leatherman contest in Dallas, has now raised $26K in his first month in office...But in Atlanta, money matters are different. With sluggish ticket sales and no big money sponsors, "That's What Friends Are For" AIDS benefit concert originally scheduled for Aug. 2 was canceled. **Dionne Warwick, Anita Baker, Gladys Knight, Robert Townsend, the Dells** and **Jonathan Slocumb** had been set to appear. Look for a new date in the spring...**M*Thang,** the black gay rock trio, performs at the Center's Outmusic Coffee House in Manhattan Sept. 15...***Paris Is Burning*** has become a big hit in Chicago with full house crowds at the Fine Arts Theater quoting lines (*Rocky Horror Picture Show*-style) along with the actors on the screen. Looks like we have our own cult classic movie now. The question is not whether you've seen it, but how many times...Also in Chicago, beloved activist **Calvin Holmes** was given the mother of all going away parties at the expansive south loop loft home of **Kevin Hoover** Aug. 17. Hundreds wished Cal well as he begins graduate school studies at Cornell University this fall...For 45 years, **Randy's Record Shop** of Gallatin, Tenn. was the primary sponsor on midnight-to-dawn broadcasts of soul and gospel music on the 50,000-watt mid-South WLAC HQ'd in Nashville. Anyone who wanted Negro music in the 1950s-60s-70s heyday of AM radio while driving late at night in the Eastern U.S. knew **DJ John R** was the only choice, and he promoted the station as being "on the air, everywhere." On Aug. 15 Randy's Record Shop closed its doors for good, out of business... We've never been sure of the difference between hip hop and house, but in San Francisco, according to **Queer Nation** at least, HIP HOP stands for "Homos into Promoting Homos on Parade"...If you're in Phoenix suffering from the heat —and who isn't—then mosey on down to **GD's Rendezvous** and watch **Mr. "Q"** show off his invisible tan line. As long as you're gonna be hot, you might as well get hot...BWMT/Memphis hosted a showing of ***Tongues Untied*** at the Memphis Main Library. Their health committee reports, by the way, that they can't keep the condoms in stock at the **Apartment.** Guess we know where the hot, healthy and horny (and smart) men are going...When **Warren Sims** and his entourage showed up at the studio for the taping of the *Montiel Williams Show* a few weeks back, they were *warned* by a staff member that the evening's show was about lesbians and gay men. The staff member was duly set straight—so to speak—over protestations that he couldn't believe they were queer. Someone at the show ought to school the support staff real quick...And finally, here's one for you. What famous black gay poet spent a weekend together with what white gay photographer?

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White Horse Inn*, 6551 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, CA 94609, 415-652-3820.

COLORADO

Club Raven***, 2217 Welton St., Denver, CO 80205, 303-297-1741.
Taste*, 2217 Welton St., Denver, CO 80205, 303-296-1741.

DIST. OF COLUMBIA

Bachelor's Mill****, 1104 - 8th St., S.E., Washington, DC 20003, 202-544-1931.
Back Door Pub****, 1104 - 8th St., S.E., Washington, DC 20003, 202-546-5979.
Brass Rail****, 476 K St., N.W., Washington, DC 20001.
Delta Elite****, 3734 - 10th St., N.E., Washington, DC 20017, 202-832-9839. Gay on Friday and Sunday.
Encore Social Club****, 1900 Fenwick St., N.E., Washington, DC 20002, 202-526-8655.
Mr. P's*, 2147 P St., N.W., Washington, DC 20037, 202-293-9009.
Nob Hill****, 1101 Kenyon St., N.W., Washington, DC 20010, 202-797-1101.
Phase One***, 525 - 8th St., S.E., Washington, DC 20003, 202-544-6831.
Tracks****, 1111 - 1st St., S.E., Washington, DC 20003, 202-488-3320. Blackest on Sunday.

FLORIDA

Boca Chica**, Boca Chica Key, Stock Island, Key West, FL 33040, 305-296-2082.
Club Twenty-One*, 2920 S.W. 30th Ave., Hallandale, FL 33009.
Red Garter**, 1 W. Main St., Pensacola, FL 32501, 904-432-9188.
Sugar's**, 13705 Biscayne Blvd., North Miami Beach, FL 33181, 305-940-9887.
Third Dimension**, 711 Edison Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32205, 904-353-6316.

GEORGIA

Armory*, 836 Juniper, Atlanta, GA 30309, 404-881-9280.
The Cove*, 586 Worchester, Atlanta, GA 30306, 404-875-2477.
Deep Purple*, 1305 First Ave., Columbus, GA 31901.
Loretta's****, 708 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, GA 30308, 404-874-8125.
Pear Garden**, 111 Luckie St., Atlanta, GA 30303, 404-659-4055.
Traxx***, 306 Luckie St., N.W., Atlanta, GA 30313, 404-681-5033. Gay on Friday and Saturday. Straight on Thursday.

ILLINOIS

Clubhouse****, 440 N. Halstead St., Chicago, IL 60622, 312-421-3588.
Faces***, 130 N. 4th St., East St. Louis, IL 62201, 618-271-7410.
Henry's Palace****, 936 N. Cicero Ave., Chicago, IL 60651.
Jeffrey Pub****, 7041 S. Jeffrey Blvd., Chicago, IL 60649, 312-363-8555.
Loading Dock**, 3702 N. Halsted St., Chicago, IL 60613, 312-929-6108.
Man's Country**, 5017 N. Clark, Chicago, IL 60651, 312-878-2069. Bathhouse.
Martin's Den****, 5550 S. State St., Chicago, IL 60621, 312-363-9470.
New 411 Club****†, 411 E. 63rd St., Chicago, IL 60637, 312-684-9387. Days straight, nights gay.
Normandy**, 3401 N. Sheffield, Chicago, IL 60657, 312-348-9806.
Roscoe's**, 3356 N. Halsted St., Chicago, IL 60657, 312-281-3355.
Stop and Drink****, 742 N. Clark St., Chicago, IL 60610.

LOUISIANA

Biggle's****, 810 N. Claiborne, New Orleans, LA 70116, 504-524-8692.
Bourbon Pub/Parade Disco**, 801 Bourbon, New Orleans, LA 70116, 504-529-2107.
Club Connections****, 913 N. Claiborne, New Orleans, LA 70116, 504-822-4402.
Golden Lantern**, 1239 Royal St., New Orleans, LA 70116, 504-523-6300.
Pinstripes and Lace****, 732 N. Claiborne, New Orleans, LA 70116, 504-528-9578. Women.
Wolfendale's****, 834 N. Rampart, New Orleans, LA 70116, 504-524-5749.

MARYLAND

Allegro**, 3101 Cathedral St., Baltimore, MD 21201, 301-837-3906.
Club Mardi Gras*, 228 Park Ave., Baltimore, MD, 301-727-8878.
Gallery*, 1735 Maryland Ave., Baltimore, MD 21201, 301-539-6965.
Hippo*, 1 W. Eager St., Baltimore, MD 21202, 301-576-0018. Blackest on Thursday.
Our Place East***, 900 E. Monument St., Baltimore, MD.
Our Place West***, 608 W. Lexington St., Baltimore, MD 21201, 301-837-7637.
Paradise Inn***, 1302 Laurens St., Baltimore, MD 21211, 301-728-9782.
Scandal's Downtown*, 610 Lexington, Baltimore, MD, 301-547-8977.
Sportsman Bar***, 412 Park Ave., Baltimore, MD 21201, 301-727-9620, 301-727-8935.
Tikki's***, 616 W. Lexington St., Baltimore, MD 21201, 301-539-9002. Women's bar.

MICHIGAN

Backstage*, 17630 Woodward N., Detroit, MI 48226, 313-869-3988.
Backstreet*, 15606 Joy Rd., Detroit, MI 48228, 313-272-8959.
Bookies***, 18952 Woodward, Detroit, MI 48226, 313-368-0300.
Continentale***, 156 Monroe, Detroit, MI 48226, 313-964-9706.
Copa*, 565 S. Saginaw, Flint, MI 48502, 313-235-2500.
Glass House***, 950 W. McNichols Rd., Detroit, MI 48203, 313-342-4941.
Heaven***, 19106 Woodward Detroit, MI 48203, 313-368-5497
Menjos*, 928 W. McNichols, Detroit, MI 48203, 313-863-3934.
R and R Saloon**, 6918 Michigan Ave., Detroit, MI 48210, 313-849-2751.
Railroad Crossing*, 6640 E. 8 Mile, Detroit, MI 48234, 313-891-1020.
Shopper's Lounge****, 25 E. Grand River, Detroit, MI 48226, 313-961-1916.
TNT Health Club**, 13333 W. 8 Mile Rd., Detroit, MI 48235, 313-341-5322. Bathhouse.

MISSISSIPPI

Interchange**, 200 N. Mill St., Jackson, MS 39201, 601-353-2041.

MISSOURI

Magnolia's Restaurant and Bar*, 5 S. Vandeventer, St. Louis, MO 63108, 314-652-6500.
Nites II*, 212 N. Vanderventer, St. Louis, MO 63108, 314-652-3123.

NEBRASKA

Our Fantasy*, 3201 S. Hillside, Wichita, NE 67216, 316-682-5494.

NEW JERSEY

First Choice**, 533 Ferry St., Newark, NJ 07105, 201-465-1944.
Murphy's**, 59 Edison St., Newark, NJ 07102, 201-622-9176.
Rascals*, 611 Hick St., Asbury Park, NJ 07712.

NEW YORK

Clit Club**, 101 Avenue A, New York, NY. Tuesdays only.
Clit Club**, 432 W. 14th St., New York, NY, 212-406-1114. Fridays only.
Hatfield's*, 126-10 Queens Blvd., Kew Gardens, NY 11415, 718-261-8484.
Hideaway*, 87-36 Parsons Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11432, 718-657-4585.
Kellers****, 384 West St., New York, NY 10014, 212-243-1907.
Mt. Morris Baths***, 1944 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10035, 212-534-9004. Bathhouse.
Nite Spot**, 201 Windsor, Jamestown, NY 14701, 716-483-3456.
Octagon****, 555 W. 33rd St., New York, NY 10001, 212-947-0400.
Rage**, 369 Central Ave., Albany, NY 12206, 518-432-1108.
Red Zone**, 440 W. 54th St., New York, NY 10019, 212-582-2222.
Sally's Hideaway*, 264 W. 43rd St., New York, NY 10036, 212-221-9152.
Tunnel Bar***, 116 First Ave., New York, NY 10009, 212-777-9232.
Two Potato***, 143 Christopher St., New York, NY 10014, 212-255-0286, 212-242-9304.

NORTH CAROLINA

Lynn's**, 213 Hillsboro, Fayetteville, NC 27278, 919-485-4350.

OHIO

Carl's Place***, 303 W. 5th St., Cincinnati, OH 45202, 513-621-5021.
Flex Complex*, 1293 W. 9th St., Cleveland, OH 44113, 216-696-0595. Bathhouse.
Porky's**, 1946 St. Clair Ave., Cleveland, OH 44114, 216-861-1299.

PENNSYLVANIA

BJP***, 5300-02 Market, Philadelphia, PA 19139, 215-747-

4953.
Brandy's Bistro*, 5300-02 Market, Philadelphia, PA 19139, 215-747-4958.
Club Body Center, 120 S. 13th St., Philadelphia, PA 19102.
Penny's Playhouse, 5300-02 Market, Philadelphia, PA 19139, 215-471-5778.
Studio 124**, 124 N. 4th St. Reading, PA 19601, 215-373-9079.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Candy Shop**, 1903 Two Notch Rd., Columbia, SC 29204.
New Attitude**, 706 W. Washington St., Greenville, SC 29601, 803-233-1387.

TENNESSEE

Apartment****, 343 Madison Ave., Memphis, TN 38103, 901-525-9491.
Family Affair***, 875 Vance Ave., Memphis, TN 38126, 901-527-0672.

TEXAS

Crew*, 309 W. Market St., San Antonio, TX 78205, 512-223-0333.
Crossing*, 611 Red River, Austin, TX 78701, 512-476-3611.
Mother's**, 402 Lovett St., Houston, TX 77006, 713-520-7935.
Paper Moon*, 1430 N. Main, San Antonio, TX 78212, 512-225-7330.
Studio 13***, 1318 Westheimer Rd., Houston, TX 77006, 713-521-9030.

WISCONSIN

Hot Spot**, 2249 N. Humboldt Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53212, 414-264-1718. Blackest on Sundays.
Molly & Oscar's**, 405 Tower Ave., Superior, WI 54836.
Phoenix**, 235 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee, WI 53204, 414-278-9727.

ORGANIZATIONS

BRAZIL

Grupo Gay da Bahia, Caxia Postal 2552, 40.020 Salvador, Bahia.

CANADA

Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention, 55 McCaul St. #221, Toronto, ON M5T 2W7 ☎ 416-971-7588.
Black Gay and Lesbian AIDS Discussion, Box 55, Sta. F, Toronto, ON M4Y 2L4 ☎ 416-926-0063.

ENGLAND

African/Caribbean Black Lesbian Group, Hackney Women's Centre, 20 Dalston Lane, London E8 ☎ 071-254-2980.
Birmingham Black Lesbian and Gay Group, London ☎ 021-622-7351.
Birmingham Black Lesbian Group, Birmingham Women's Advice and Information Centre, Devonshire House, High St., Digbeth, Birmingham B12 0LP ☎ 021-773-6952.
Black Communities AIDS Team, Leeds City Council, Health Unit, Selectapost 14, 2nd Fl. Annexe, Civic Hall, Leeds LS1 3AQ ☎ 053-462431.
Black HIV/AIDS Forum, 29 New Walk, Leicester LE1 6TE ☎ 053-385-5955.
Black HIV/AIDS Forum, AIDS Unit #6003, Town Hall Extension, Manchester, M60 2JB.
Black HIV/AIDS Network, 106-108 King St., London W6 0QU ☎ 081-741-9585.
Black Lesbian and Gay Centre Project, Tottenham Town Hall, Annexe B, Town Hall Approach Rd., London N15 4RX ☎ 081-885-3543.
Blackliners, Box 74, London SW12 9JY ☎ 071-673-1695.
Camden Black Lesbian Group, 54-56 Phoenix Rd., London NW1 ☎ 071-383-5405.
City of London Anti-Apartheid Group, BM City AA, London WC1N 3XX ☎ 01-837-6050.
Fusion, London Lesbian and Gay Centre. ☎ 071-358-1486.
Haringey Black Action, BM 4390, London WC1N 3XX.
Lager Black Lesbian/Gay Support Group, Southbank House, Black Prince Rd. #205, London SE1 7SJ ☎ 01-587-1643 or 01-587-163.
Leicester Black Lesbian and Gay Group, Michael Wood Centre, 29 New Walk, Leicester LE1 6TE ☎ 053-355-9995.
Lesbian and Gay Black Group, 40 Theobalds Rd., London WC1 ☎ 01-678-6606.
Let's Rap, c/o Dennis Carney, 47d Lorn Rd., London SW9 0AB ☎ 071-737-3881.
Light Skinned and Mixed Race Black Lesbian Group, London ☎ 01-885-3543.
Manchester Black Lesbian and Gay Group, Box 153, Manchester M60 1LP.
Nottingham Black Lesbian Group, Nottingham Lesbian Centre, 30 Chaucer St., Nottingham NG5 1LP ☎ 060-241-1475.
Onyx, 86 Caledonian Rd., London N1, England. ☎ 01-837-3337 or 071-837-2783.
Peckham Black Lesbian Group, Peckham Black Women's Centre, 69 Bellenden Rd., London SE15 ☎ 071-358-1486.
Young Black Lesbian Group, Lewisham Young Women's Project, 308 Brownhill Rd., Lewisham ☎ 081-698-6675.
Young Black Zamis, Camden Lesbian Centre, 52-54 Phoenix Rd., London NW1 ☎ 071-383-5405.

GHANA

Club De Le Gayes, c/o Enos Jeffreys, Bubuiashie-Atico, Box 3879, Accra ☎ 224-412.
Gay Liberation Group of Nkawkaw, c/o Festus Owusu Sekyere, Box 282, Nkawkaw-E/R

SOUTH AFRICA

Gay and Lesbian Organization of Witwatersrand, Box 23297, Joubert Park, Johannesburg 2044 ☎ 11-837-6413, 442-9066 fax.
Organization of Lesbians and Gay Activists, Box 7315, Roggebaai 8012, Cape Town.
Society for Homosexuals on Campus, Box 23017, Joubert Park 2044, Johannesburg.

SWEDEN

Africa Information Pool, RFSL, c/o Alfred Machela, Box 350, S-101 24, Stockholm.

ZIMBABWE

Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe, Box UA 425, Union Ave., Harare.

CALIFORNIA

Adult Children of Alcoholics, Jewel's Catch One, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-734-8849.
African-American Gay and Lesbian Cultural Alliance, 6709 La Tijera Blvd. #484, Los Angeles, CA 90045, 213-641-5643.
African-American Lesbians 40+, 415-465-2573.
African-American Men's Health Project, 74 New Montgomery St. #600, San Francisco, CA 94105, 415-597-9137.
Afro-Centric Support Group, San Diego, 619-263-8196. HIV positive support group.
Al-Anon for Black Gay and Lesbians, 1268 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114, 415-995-2581.
Alcoholics Anonymous/People of Color, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-936-4949.
Alcoholics Anonymous, Women's Self Acceptance, Crenshaw Alano Club, 4323 Leimert Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90008.
Beyond the Bars, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-936-4949.
Bisexuals of Color Caucus, San Francisco, CA, 415-821-3534.
Black and White Men Together/ Los Angeles, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd. #109-136, W. Hollywood, CA 90046, 213-664-4716.
Black and White Men Together/ San Diego, 2936 Lincoln Ave. #1990, San Diego, CA 92104, 619-528-1815.
Black and White Men Together/ San Francisco, 2261 Market St. #506, San Francisco, CA 94114, 415-931-BWMT.
Black Coalition on AIDS, 726 Broderick St., San Francisco, CA 94117, 415-931-3031, 415-553-8197.
Black Community AIDS Research and Education Project, 1283 Franz Hall, Los Angeles, CA 90024-1563, 213-206-5162.
Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, 2538 Hyperion #7, Los Angeles, CA 90027; Box 29812, Los Angeles, CA 90027, 213-666-5495.
Black and Gay for Life, Box 8081, Culver City, CA 90233.
Black Gay Men United, Box 20624, Oakland, CA 94620, 415-653-5880.
Black Gay Men's Coalition for Human Rights, 9001 Keith Ave., W. Hollywood, CA 90069, 213-274-3398.
Black Gay Men's Rap Group, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90016, 213-274-3398.
Black Lesbian Support Group, 415-839-3302, 415-653-5732.
Black Lesbians Support Group at Connexxus, 1017 N. La Cienega Blvd., #110, W. Hollywood, CA 90069, 213-652-3894.
Black Lesbians Under 25, 415-864-0876.
Black Men's Support Group, Berkeley, CA, 415-841-6224.
Black Men's Xchange, Los Angeles, 213-281-7742.
Black Men's Xchange, Sacramento, 916-454-0516.
Black Men's Xchange, Box 32005, Oakland, CA 94604, 415-839-9318.
Blacks Living with HIV Infection, ARC and AIDS, 213-666-5493.
California Rainbow, Box 3805, Los Angeles, CA 90051.
Cocaine Anonymous, Jewel's Catch One, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-734-8849.
Early Advocacy and Care for HIV, 625 O'Farrell St., San Francisco, CA 94109, 415-864-1214.
Gentlemen Concerned, Box 712298, Bunker Hill Sta., Los Angeles, CA 90071.
HIV Survival Group for People of Color, IKUNU Program, 220 N. Euclid Ave. #130, San Diego, CA 92114, 619-527-2477.
Kupona Network, 3220 Sacramento St., Berkeley, CA 94702, 415-665-2830.
Ladies Concerned, Box 37036, Los Angeles, CA 90037.
Lapis/Alcoholism Center for Women, 1147 S. Alvarado St., Los Angeles, CA 90006, 213-381-7805.
Lesbians and Gays of African Descent, Box 89174, San Diego, CA 92138, 619-294-6515.
Lesbians of Color Against Abuse, 415-621-8684.
Lesbians of Color Support Group, Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, CA 94705, 415-548-8283.
Los Angeles Black Lesbians and Gays, 213-758-7018.
Makeda, Box 78785, Los Angeles, CA 90016, 213-935-4105.
Men of All Colors Together/Bay Area, Box 811, Oakland, CA 94604, 415-261-7922.
Minority AIDS Project, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90016, 213-936-4949.
Multicultural Alliances for Prevention of AIDS, 6025 Third St., San Francisco, CA 94124, 415-822-7500.
Multicultural Lesbian Writers Group, San Francisco, CA, 415-995-2730.
Multicultural Prevention Resource Center, 1540 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94102, 415-861-2142.
National Association of Black and White Men Together, 584 Castro St. #140, San Francisco, CA 94114, 415-431-1976.
National Task Force on AIDS Prevention of the National Association of Black and White Men Together, 631 O'Farrell St., San Francisco, CA 94109, 415-749-6700.
Oakland Black Gay Political Association, 924 E. 20th St. #2, Oakland, CA 94606.
People of Color AIDS Survival Effort, 3177 Ocean View Blvd., San Diego, CA 92113, 619-231-9300.
Project WARN, 5601 W. Slauson Ave. #200, Culver City, CA 90230, 213-641-7795.
Racism and Homophobia in the Media Project, 30 Gardenside #6, San Francisco, CA 94131, 415-641-5706.
Rafiki Services Project, Box 11908, San Francisco, CA 94103, 415-553-8806. AIDS support group.
Rap of Lyff, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90016, 213-465-1193.
Regional Black Lesbian Conference Planning Committee, 213-753-4475.
Rue's House, Box 37036, Los Angeles, CA 90037, 213-295-4030.
Third World AIDS Advisory Task Force, Box 6182, San Francisco, CA 94101, 415-864-4376.
United Colors of Queer Nation, San Francisco, 415-821-6108, 415-985-7141.
United Lesbians of African Heritage, 1626 N. Wilcox St. #190, Los Angeles, CA 90028, 213-960-5051.
Unity Fellowship Church, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90016, 213-936-4948.
Women of Color Project, 1370 Mission St., San Francisco, CA 94103, 415-621-0505.
Womyn of Colors, 1213 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90038, 213-464-7400, ext. 205.
X-Calibre Club, 9001 Keith Ave., W. Hollywood, CA 90069, 213-274-6272.
Z and Z Productions, 4153 Garden Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90039.

COLORADO

African-American Gay Men's Group, Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Colorado, 1245 E. Colfax #319, Denver, CO 80218, 303-831-6268.
B-A-Pal, 1525 Josephine St., Denver, CO 80206, 303-388-5862.
Black Gays and Lesbians United Against AIDS, Box 18974, Denver, CO 80218, 303-320-4602.

Black Gays and Lesbians United Against AIDS, Box 18974, Denver, CO 80218, 303-399-0329.
Black Men's Xchange, 1512 E. 14th Ave., Denver, CO 80218, 303-837-1530, 303-831-6268.

CONNECTICUT

Lesbians of Color, Yale Women's Center, 198 Elm St., New Haven, CT 06520, 203-624-8727.
Men of All Colors Together/Connecticut, Box 2735, Hartford, CT 06146-2735, 203-346-0199 (Mike, in Hartford), 203-497-8538 (Stevie, in New Haven).

DIST. OF COLUMBIA

Best Friends, 202-953-0681.
Bi Black Females, Box 90378, Washington, DC 20005, 202-715-6148.
Black and White Men Together/DC, Box 73111, Washington, DC 20056-3111, 202-452-9173.
Black Lesbian Support Group, 202-797-3500.
D.C. Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gay Men, Box 21543, Washington, DC 20009, 202-488-4771.
D.C. White Lesbians Against Racism Everywhere, 202-332-7338, 202-332-0202.
Faith Temple, 1313 New York Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20005, 202-544-2766.
HIV Support Group for African/American Men and Women, Whitman-Walker Clinic, 1407 S St., N.W., Washington, DC 20007, 202-797-3591.
Impact/DC, 300 I St., N.E. #300, Washington, DC 20002, 202-546-7228.
Inner City AIDS Network, 912 Third St., Washington, DC 20001-2511, 202-789-ICAN.
Intergroup Minority Project: AIDS Consortium and Trust (IMPACT), 300 I St., N.E. #301, Washington, DC 20002, 202-5-IMPACT.
National Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays, Box 19248, Washington, DC 20036-0248, 202-389-1094.
National Minority AIDS Council, 300 I St., N.E. #400, Washington, DC 20012, 202-544-1076.

FLORIDA

Bay Area Men of All Colors Together/Tampa, Box 2911, Tampa, FL 33601.
Black and White Men Together/Tallahassee/Big Bend, 411 Chapel Dr., Box 226, Tallahassee, FL 32304-3321 904-681-9499.
Black Support Group, Jacksonville, FL, 904-630-3237. For those HIV positive.

GEORGIA

African American Lesbian and Gay Alliance, Box 50374, Atlanta, GA 30302, 404-755-7731.
Black and White Men Together/Atlanta, Box 1334, Atlanta, GA 30301-1334, 404-794-2968.
Outreach, 741 Piedmont Ave., N.E. #500, Atlanta, GA 30308, 404-873-5992.
Zami, 404-315-7684.

ILLINOIS

Men of All Colors Together/Chicago, 4753 N. Broadway #1200, Chicago, IL 60640, 312-334-2012.
Brotherrs Projects, 6540 S. Woodlawn Ave., Chicago, IL 60637, 312-667-8313.
Chicago Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays, Box 378068, Chicago, IL 60637, 312-667-5632.
Chicago Lesbians Emerging Against Racism, 3712 N. Broadway #202, Chicago, IL 60613.
Committee of Black Gay Men, Box 7209, Chicago, IL 60680-7209, 312-248-5188.
Committee to Increase Black Gay and Lesbian Awareness, Box 64816, Chicago, IL 60664-0816.
GREAT (Gay, Racially Equal, and Together) Men, Box 7209, Chicago, IL 60680-7209, 312-248-5188.
Image Plus, 5354 N. Kenmore St., Chicago, IL 60640.
Informed and Connected, Box 64816, Chicago, IL 60664-0814, 708-515-5515.
Kupona Network, 4611 S. Ellis, Chicago, IL 60653, 312-536-3000.

INDIANA

Black and White Men Together/Indianapolis, Box 88784, Indianapolis, IN 46208, 317-271-9446.

KANSAS

Topeka Coalition, 2641 S.E. 11th St., Topeka, KS 66607.

KENTUCKY

Black and White Men Together/Louisville, Box 1838, Louisville, KY 40201, 502-772-3025.

MARYLAND

Baltimore Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays, 618 W. Franklin St. #6, Baltimore MD 21201.
Black and White Men Together/Baltimore, Box 22472, Baltimore, MD 21203, 301-225-9386, 301-542-3317.
Black Coalition of Lesbians and Gay Men, 3835 Reisterstown Rd., Baltimore, MD 21218, 301-542-6218 (Goldie), 301-669-4192 (Irv).
Blacks United for Gay and Lesbian Equality (BUGLE), Box 13429, Baltimore, MD 21203, 301-547-1829 (Brenda).

MASSACHUSETTS

Men of All Colors Together/Boston, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116.
Multicultural AIDS Coalition, 566 Columbus Ave., Boston, MA 02118, 617-536-8610.
Revolutionary Sisters of Color, Box 2798, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130.

MICHIGAN

Black and White Men Together/Detroit, Box 248831, Detroit, MI 48224, 313-864-1154.
Essence of Choice, Box 23367, Detroit, MI 48232.
Full Truth Faith Fellowship Church, 19700 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48203-1528, 313-366-2400.
Lesbians and Gays Against Racism, 312-744-4152.
Project: Survival, 15212 W. 7 Mile Rd., Detroit, MI 48235-2820, 313-567-7272.

MINNESOTA

Women of Color Stir Fry, 612-729-1360.

MISSOURI

Black and White Men Together/Kansas City, Box 412432, Kansas City, MO 64141, 816-931-4470.
Blacks Assisting Blacks Against AIDS, Box 150531, St. Louis, MO 63115, 314-367-0191.
Lesbians and Gays of Color, c/o Phoenix Books, 6 W. 39th St., Kansas City, MO 64111, 816-931-6822.

NEBRASKA

People of All Colors Together/Omaha, 2211 Jones St. #1F, Omaha, NE 68102.

NEW YORK

African American Wimmin United for Societal Change, 208 W. 13th St., New York, NY 10011, 212-620-7310.
Black Lesbian, 2130 First Ave. #2601, New York, NY 10029, 212-565-8365.
Bronx Lesbians United in Sisterhood, Box 1244, Bronx, NY 10462, 212-829-9817, 212-409-1131.
Brooklyn Lesbians Together, 718-636-5297.
Brooklyn Task Force on AIDS, 718-596-4781.
Carribean Women's Health Association, 244 Utica Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11213, 718-826-2942.
Club F, 208 W. 13th St., New York, NY 10011, 212-491-7228.
Committee on the Visibility of Other Black Women, 2130 First Ave., New York, NY 10029, 718-565-8365.
Gay African Americans of Westchester, 172 Ravine Ave. #3D, Yonkers, NY 10701-1843, 914-376-0727.
Gay, Bisexual, Lesbians of Color, Cornell University, 535 Willard Straight Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853.
Gay Men of African Descent, 80 Varick St., New York, 10013, 212-226-4433, 212-226-4462.
Gay Men of the Bronx, 1 Fordham Plaza #800, Bronx, NY 10458.
Haitian Coalition on AIDS, 50 Court St. #605, Brooklyn, NY 11201, 718-855-7275.
Lavender Light, 178 Clermont Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11205, 212-222-9794.
Lesbian and Gay People of Color Steering Committee, 212-562-3131, 212-505-0506, 212-995-8585.
Lesbians and Gays of Flatbush, Box 106, Brooklyn, NY 11230, 718-859-9437.
Majority Action Committee, ACT-UP, Box 7932, New York, NY 10150.
Mama Doesn't Know! Productions, 208 W. 13th St., New York, NY 10011, 212-245-6366, 212-827-6350.
Men of All Colors Together/New York, Box 1518, New York, NY 10023, 212-245-6366, 212-222-9794.
Men of Color AIDS Prevention Program, c/o Office of Gay and Lesbian Health Issues, Dept. of Health, 125 Worth St. #601, Box 67, New York, NY 10013, 212-566-4995.
Minority Lesbian and Gay Physicians and Medical Students, c/o Gene Nakajima, 155 E. 29th St. #19-H, New York, NY 10016, 212-213-9471.
Minority Task Force on AIDS, 92 St. Nicholas Ave. #1B, New York, NY 10026, 212-749-2816.
New York Black Women's Health Project, Box 401037, Brooklyn, NY 11240, 718-596-6000.
New York Chapter of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays, Box 1399, New York, NY 10026, 718-622-3576.
Other Countries, Box 3142, New York, NY 10008, 212-505-0506.
Parents of Color and Our Families, 718-596-7979.
Sister-to-Sister, New York, NY, 718-596-6000. HIV positive support group.
Study Group on Black Lesbians, Lesbian Herstory Archives, Box 1258, New York, NY 10116, 212-874-7232.
VOCAL, c/o Office of Gay and Lesbian Health Issues, Dept. of Health, 125 Worth St. #601, Box 67, New York, NY 10013, 212-566-4995.

NORTH CAROLINA

Black and White Men Together/Charlotte, c/o Woody Mitchell, 2116 Shade Valley Rd. #AB, Charlotte, NC 28205-7357.
Black and White Men Together/Triangle, Box 3411, Durham, NC 27702, 919-490-1555.
Black and White Men Together/Yadkin, Box 3434, Salisbury, NC 28145.
Triangle Coalition, 604 W. Chapel Hill St., Durham, NC 27701.
Triangle Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays, BPW Club Rd., #A-11, Carrboro, NC 27510, 919-933-6548.

OHIO

Black and White Men Together/Cleveland, Box 5144, Cleveland, OH 44101-0144, 216-371-4597.
Black and White Men Together/Columbus, Box 151276, Columbus, OH 43215, 614-221-2734.
Black and White Men Together/Youngstown, Box 1346, Youngstown, OH 44501, 216-782-3483.
Cleveland Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays, 216-851-6624.
Living the Dream, 1277 Brookwood Pl., Columbus, OH 43209, 614-252-4226.
Men of All Colors Together/Cincinnati, Box 2205, Cincinnati, OH 45201-2205, 513-751-7659.

OREGON

Black Lesbians and Gays United, Portland, OR, 503-231-5034.

PENNSYLVANIA

ADODI/Philadelphia, Box 15755, Philadelphia, PA 19103-0755.
Black and White Men Together/Pittsburgh, 1007 Franklin Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15221.
Black and White Men Together/Philadelphia, Box 42257, Philadelphia, PA 19101.
Black Gay Archives, Box 30024, Philadelphia, PA 19103.
Blacks Educating Blacks about Sexual Health Issues (BEBASHI), 1528 Walnut St. #1414, Philadelphia, PA 19102, 215-546-4140.
Les Femmes Unies, Box 42833, Philadelphia, PA 19101, 215-657-5130.
Unity, Box 53617, Philadelphia, PA 19105, 215-642-8661, 215-545-6162.

TENNESSEE

Black and White Men Together/Memphis, Box 42157, Memphis, TN 38174, 901-726-1461.
Black Gay and Lesbian Alliance for Dignity, Box 1921, Memphis, TN 38101, 901-327-3943, 901-948-2345.

TEXAS

Cousins of the Heart, 2701 Reagan, Dallas, TX 75219, 214-526-6221.
Ebony Connection, 227 Congress Ave. #125, Austin, TX 78701; Box 1428, Austin, TX 78767, 512-326-8363.
Men of All Colors Together/Dallas, Box 190611, Dallas, TX 75219, 214-357-7898, 214-871-0819, 214-521-3146.

WASHINGTON

Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Youth of Color Discussion Group, 4620 S. Findlay, Seattle 98136, 206-632-0500, 206-322-7900.
Men of All Colors and Cultures Together, Box 12348, Seattle, WA 98111-4348, 206-325-9833.
People of Color AIDS/HIV Support Group, Seattle, WA, 206-322-AIDS.
People of Color Against AIDS Network, 1200 S. Jackson #25, Seattle, WA 98144, 206-322-7061.

WISCONSIN

Black and White Men Together/Milwaukee, Box 12292, Milwaukee, WI 53212, 414-265-8500.
Black Gay Consciousness Raising, Box 93694, Milwaukee, WI 53203, 414-933-2136.
Club Muse, Box 93694, Milwaukee, WI 53203, 414-291-0766 (Nate).

Nobody ever plans on getting AIDS. And that makes it all the more devastating.

But if fighting the most tragic and least understood killer in the world today seems more than you can bear alone, remember, there's someone out there who wants to help.

AIDS Project Los Angeles.

We're confronting AIDS on every side. But our first and foremost concern is for those who have Human Immunodeficiency Virus. They're the reason we initially set up our AIDS Hotline in 1982, and soon followed up with a buddy program and counseling.

Of course, people with AIDS need more than just companionship.

They need to understand the disease. That's why we offer guidance on living with AIDS. Updates on insurance issues. Advice on faith and spiritual matters. And counseling on chemical dependencies and other addictive behaviors that often complicate an AIDS diagnosis.

I've always said,

"If I ever got AIDS, I don't know what I'd do."

I was right.

Now as if the mental and physical drain of AIDS isn't enough, there's also the financial drain. So we provide essentials like food, clothing, and dental services to those in critical need.

Of course, the fight against AIDS isn't only between the disease and those who have it.

It's everyone's problem.

That's why we promote public awareness. Try to educate those who feel they don't need it. And demand that the Government of the United States approach AIDS just as it does every other major disease.

At AIDS Project Los Angeles, people discover courage and strength they didn't know they had. But before we can help, they have to do one simple thing.

Call 213-962-1600 and talk to someone who cares.

Having AIDS can be a frightening experience, which is all the more reason it shouldn't be a lonely experience.

AIDS PROJECT LOS ANGELES

AIDS Project Los Angeles would like to gratefully thank the following contributors. Concept and design by Chiat/Day/Mojo, Jim Weinstein, Doug Schumacher and Rich Bess. Production by David Nickel, Patti Rawlins, Tony Jenson, Joe's Type Shop and Reproduction Quality Services. Media Planning by Media Ranch.

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BLK MARKET

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gospel musicians wanted for African-American group. Need lead and bass guitar, keyboards and drum. Call 714-788-9490. (33)

Study of long-term lesbian couples. Been together 2 years or more? You and your partner will fill out an interesting questionnaire which takes under 40 minutes. Research results provided. To participate, call Deborah at 718-398-2248, collect or leave message. Your help is appreciated. (32)

Have bought a car from a car dealer that has advertised in the gay press? We want to ask a few questions. Any dealer. Any gay paper. Done over the phone. You can remain anonymous. Takes about 3 minutes of your time. Call 213-410-0808. Ask for Alan. (32)

For black or African-American gay and lesbian Christians who wish to correspond with others, Across the Miles has been created. This correspondence program will enable people to share what God is doing in their lives, spiritual discoveries made, questions regarding scriptural passages or living the life as a Christian, and prayer requests. This program is not a matchmaking service, but it is possible to meet others through correspondence. Across the Miles is a non-denominational enterprise, and is not affiliated with any established Christian church or religious organization. Those people interested in corresponding should send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Across the Miles, 5217 Hollywood Blvd. #401 Hollywood, CA 90027. Attn: James-Imani. All inquiries will be quickly replied, and all information is kept confidential. (32)

Wanted: Sierra Domino Newsletter back issues. Photocopies okay. Willing to pay reasonable fee, costs of photocopying and postage. Need issues 1, 3, 5 and 7, and any published after issue 22. Call Alan Bell at 213-410-0808, or write BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. (32)

Opportunity for financial freedom if you have the courage to call. 708-216-9719. 24 hour. (37)

SERVICES

Sex therapy. 800-660-1428. (35)

24-hour Crisis Hotline. Professional help is just a phone call away now! Depression, anxiety, AIDS-related mental/emotional problems. Other psychological problems. 1-800-444-9999. The Open Quest Institute. Serving our community since 1978. (33)

ORGANIZATIONS

Outreach for couples. Support the positive aspects of alternative lifestyle relationships thru social informative events held twice a month in San Diego. For more info, call Steve/Keith at 213-283-6243 or Kate/Kim at 213-475-4407. (35)

Hairy men/admirers. Bears/trappers. Nationwide explicit adlistings. Infopak $3.00: Hair, 59 W. 10th, NYC 10011. (34)

Lambda Alumni invites all UCLA and UC alumni, students, friends, and anyone who supports our efforts to provide a positive force for change at UCLA, to attend a general meeting on Aug. 20, 1991 at 7:30 p.m. This meeting is for all current members and any other interested gay men, lesbians, and friends. For more information and directions to the meeting location call 213-281-7927. Lambda Alumni was formed in May 1989 by UCLA's gay and lesbian alumni for the purpose of creating a conducive learning environment for gay men and lesbians on the UCLA campus and a forum for social interaction. These goals are achieved through activities such as academic scholarships, lecture series, and career networking. (33)

Singles club forming in San Francisco for African-American gay men who want to meet and date other African-American gay men. BLK Mailbox #140. (33)

EMPLOYMENT OFFERED

Accounting Assistant. Duties include data entry, typing, filing, phones, sorting mail and performing accounting research. Applicant must be knowledgeable of accounting principles and possess spreadsheet and word processing skills. Good organizational skills a plus. 1-2 years previous experience. Salary: $20,000 a year plus benefits. Submit resume to: Personnel, Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, 1213 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90038. The Center is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer. (33)

Advertising Salesperson to represent BLK. Work where your income reflects your energy and ability. Experience preferred, but will train the right person. Your own hours. Top commission paid. Women especially encouraged to apply. Call 213-410-0808. Or write BLK, Box 83912, L.A., CA 90083. (33)

Counselor. The nation's only lesbian and gay inpatient chemical dependency treatment center is seeking a skilled CD Counselor. The position requires a B.A. and ICDP certification or eligibility advantageous. If recovering, a minimum of 2 years of verifiable continuous sobriety is required. Must be sensitive to the needs of lesbian/gay patients. Qualified applications send resume to: Joseph Neisen, Program Director, Pride Institute, 14400 Martin Dr., Eden Prairie, MN 55344. (32)

Development and Legal Assistant. Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, the country's oldest and largest lesbian and gay legal organization, seeks a Development/Legal Assistant for its Los Angeles office. Lambda is a national organization whose work is primarily devoted to test-case litigation of legal issues affecting lesbians, gay men, and people living with AIDS. Since 1973, Lambda has fought to establish legal protection and rights for the lesbian and gay communities in cases as diverse as military discharge; employment, insurance and housing discrimination; child custody and visitation; relationship rights and domestic partnership benefits; access to health care and AIDS-related treatments; and First Amendment rights. Responsibilities: Assist Staff Attorney with management of office and legal program; coordinate West Coast fundraising and membership efforts; recruit and supervise law students for intake and referral; assist with publicity and public education activities; manage volunteer program; participate in community events and forums. Qualifications: Strong organizational, writing, and computer (WordPerfect) skills, a commitment to gay/lesbian rights, and experience with non-profits and fundraising. Please send resume by September 10, 1991 to: Mary Newcombe, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, 606 South Olive, #580, Los Angeles, CA 90014. Lambda is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer. Women, people of color and people with disabilities are encouraged to apply. (33)

Inpatient treatment center for lesbians and gay men with chemical dependency. Experience in chemical dependency or psychiatry preferred. Administrative experience desirable, but not essential. Must be sensitive to the needs of the lesbian and gay community. Responsible for supervision of staff, medical evaluations, detoxification, medical quality assurance. Send resume or call Brenda Griffin, Acting Executive Director, Pride Institute, 14400 Martin Dr., Eden Prairie, MN 55344. 800-547-7433. (32)

MD + ADM & RN Needed for new Pas. Com. Clinic. PT or retired OK. Bilingual. Call Dr. Jolly 213-664-5000. (32)

Photo Coordinator wanted to plan, schedule and keep track of photographers and models. Photographers also wanted to do covers and advertising shots. Excellent opportunity to add published work to your portfolio. Call 213-410-0808 or drop a note to BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. (33)

PLACES TO LIVE

Roommate to share 2 bedroom house in Ladera-View Heights area. Quiet neighborhood. Furnished bedroom, share rest of house and yard. Cable TV available. Prefer non-smoker professional responsible male or female 25-35. Rent $450/mo incl. util. Call 213-292-1590. (33)

CALLS FOR SUBMISSION

BMX Denver is seeking submissions of essays and poetry from black gay men as a response to the work of homophobic writer Francis Cress Welsing. Her book, "The Isis Reporter: Keys to the Colors," contains a chapter on the politics of "black male passivity," and give an incredulous theory on the origin of black male effeminization and the "source" of homosexuality. BMX-Denver plans to respond with a body of literature that could be published to counter Welsing's theories. Submissions will be accepted through Sept. 5 further information is available from Rajer at 303-837-1530. (33)

Trashy (but well-written) black gay male fiction wanted for raunchy new bimonthy magazine of black gay erotica. Tasteful work also accepted. Send us hot letters. Relive your exploits. Tell of your fantasies. Send with SASE to Editor, BLACKfire, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912(TF)

Venus Press is seeking single-panel cartoon, strips, and cartoon stories for New Dyke, a book anthology of cartoons by cartoons by, for and about lesbians. Cartoons can be fantasy, soap opera, humor, sci-fi, feminist satire/politics, explicit sex, stories about growing up, coming out, romance, aging, etc. Deadline Dec. 1, 1991. Send submissions and SASE to Venus Press, 7100 Blvd. E., Guttenberg, NJ 07093. Especially seeking cartoons by lesbians of color. (32)

The Pittsburgh International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival is accepting entries in film and video (8mm, 16mm, 35mm, 1/2", 3/4"). The deadline for entries is Sept. 10. All categories welcome. People of all colors strongly urged to enter. Please send properly labeled entries, inclusive filmography with personal statement, $15 entry fee, and return postage to: PILGFF, Box 9007, Pittsburgh, PA, 15224. Contact: Daniel Schott, 412-362-9462. (32)

Independent filmmaker Ann Alter and writer/researcher Laine Goldman are seeking your honeymoon tales for their new documentary film--horizontal mambo and other honeymoon tales. Funded in part by the Ohio Arts Council and the Center for New Television NEA Regional Fellowship program, this feature-length documentary chronicles the romantic passage of the honeymoon and investigative dynamics of a ritual rarely discussed in professional and/or private life. Co-directors/producers Alter and Goldman are asking individuals and couples to share their honeymoon tales from the traditional to the offbeat. Special attention is being made to contact lesbians and gay men, people of color, the physically challenged and seniors. Alter and Goldman also encourage "honeymoon specialists" to share their insights

and theories. Lesbian, gay men, people of color and seniors are encouraged to send inquiries, stories and suggestions to Horizontal Mambo Productions, Box 5657, Athens, OH 45701. (32)

The Multi Media Arts Gallery is looking for work by lesbian and gay photographers for a show that will be held at the gallery during Jan. 1992. The work may be documentary, experimental or fine art. Work that is considered sexist, racist or violent in any way will not be accepted. To have your work reviewed by the gallery director photographers should call 212-966-4080 to set up an appointment. (32)

Submissions are now being accepted for Short Fiction By Women, a new magazine publishing the finest literature by women writers. The magazine needs unpublished short stories, novellas and novel excerpts. All women writers, including lesbians and women of color, are encouraged to submit their work. Stories from both unpublished and published writers will be considered. Want top-quality, strong, original short fiction. A short biography/bibliography of each author will be included. Payment will be based on length and funds available. The magazine will own first serial rights only. Writers should submit one typed, double-spaced manuscript and include a SASE for return of manuscript. Send submissions to: Rachel Whalen, Editor, Short Fiction By Women, Box 1276, Stuyvesant Sta., New York, NY 10009. The first issue will be published in the fall of 1991. (32)

Sorority, a new quarterly magazine published by and for gay women, is seeking submissions on subjects of interest to gay women: informative articles, commentaries, profiles, interviews, travel pieces, health issues, short and long fiction, poetry, graphics, drawings, photographs, book reviews, film and video reviews, concert and event reviews, cartoons, drawings, puzzles, community listings and information about upcoming activities. Submissions from marginalized members of our community are particularly welcomed. Maximum word count is 7,500, but 5,000 preferred. Submissions on 3-1/2 in. disk in IBM WordPerfect with hard copy backup preferred, but can accept ASCII format on either 3-1/2 or 5-1/4 in. disks. Typed-only submissions also accepted. All artwork (including photographs) should be in black and white, should not exceed 7-1/4 x 4 in. with either vertical or horizontal layout, and should be camera-ready if possible. Reductions to fit the specified dimensions are acceptable. Include a S.A.S.E. No material that is racist, sexist, ageist, ableist or homophobic in content will be published. Sorority, 1170 Bay St. #110, Toronto, ON M5S 2B4, Canada. 416-462-6665. (32)

At the Crossroads, a new visual, performing and literary journal for women artists of African descent, is seeking submissions of written and visual art. Manuscripts of poetry, short stories, journal entries, experimental writing, radio plays, theatre, interviews, screenplays, transcribed performance pieces, reviews, essays and all other forms of creative and analytical writing are welcome. We want submissions of visual art, including line drawings, sketches, graphics, illustrations, photographs, murals, mixed media, printing, collage, sculpture, quilts, beadwork, textile art, etc. Send black and white photographs or photocopies of work. Do not send your original copy of art work. All submissions should be accompanied by a bio, brief statement about the work and any other relevant information. At the Crossroads is especially interested in receiving submissions from women in the Maritimes region and writers who have not yet been published. Manuscripts that do not arrive with a self-addressed, stamped envelope will not be returned, so send copies only. All photographs will be returned. Send to: Attn. Karen Augustine, At the Crossroads: A Journal for Women Artists of African Descent, Box 317, Sta. P, Toronto, ON M5S 2S8, Canada. (32)

Women with immune system and other systemic disorders--rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, scleroderma, endometriosis, chronic fatigue, multiple sclerosis, chronic asthma, allergies, environmental illness. Submissions sought for anthology of women's experiences living and coping with these illnesses. We are looking for inspiring, cautionary or everyday stories about how your illness has affected your work, family, children, partner, support system, sexuality, self-image, finances, sense of security, physical abilities, spirituality. How has your life changed? What have you learned? For information and Writer's Guidelines send self-addressed stamped envelope to: Canaries in the Mine, 75 Hartford St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Deadline: Dec. 1, 1991. Contributions by women of color especially welcome. (32)

An anthology of writing and artwork by Asian/Pacific lesbians is being compiled by Anne Mi Ok Bruining and Sharon Lim-Hing of Asian Lesbians of the East Coast. The genres are poetry, essays, short stories, autobiography and any artwork that can be reproduced in a book. Themes include but are not limited to the following: identity, sexuality, politics/social constructs, relationships, work/professions/careers, life cycles, disabilities and activities and interests. The deadline is Dec. 15, 1991, and submissions should be sent to Anne Mi Ok Bruining, 41 Shaw Rd., Little Compton, RI 02837. (32)

FOR SALE

Traditional African designs with an American flair. Handmade. Write ANKH Enterprises, African Clothiers, Box 46085, Los Angeles, CA 90046. (35)

Watch five hot black men—each new to video—in solo jackoff. Do it while they do it. Spurt when they spurt. Full length 90 minutes. Rated XXX. Specify VHS or Beta. State and sign that you are over 21. We can send to street addresses only. No P.O. boxes. $29.95 plus $3.05 shipping and handling. Check, money order, Visa, M.C. or Amex. No cash. Nubian Video, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90046. (33)

Skins, the fanzine for kinky uncut men. Free ads. Sample copy: $4 and statement of age. CB&V, Box 97694, Las Vegas, NV 89193. (39)

Exclusively created for black skin: based on ancient Egyptian formulas of rejuvenation our products are made from state of the art natural ingredients. Send $15 for samples and product list to: Temptations! Box 1227, New York, NY 10018. (32)

Gay magazines. Pack of 6 hot used magazines. Just $15. P&H, Inc. Send check or M.O. to Island Marketing, 127 S. Shore Dr., Island Lake, IL 60042, State you are 21. (37)

BLK T-shirts, satin jackets, baseball caps, sweatshirts, key tags, back issues, note cards, etc. now available mail order. Write: BLK Mail and Femail Store Catalog, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. Or call 800-TRUE-BLK, anytime 24 hours a day, seven days a week. (TF)

MASSEURS

Muscular black ex-marine with strong, sensual talented hands will relieve you of any and all stress, tension, etc. Try me once and you'll be back! Discount to seniors. Friendly service. Dick 619-294-3589 for appt. (34)

Attractive, well-built guy (29, 5'7", 140#), experienced, offers deep thorough relaxing massage to other in-shape guys by candlelight, table, $40 in West Hollywood, $? out. Greg, 213-650-6265. Calls verified. (E)

Randy Cochran. 818-997-3776. L.A.'s hot top black studman. Hung huge, yet versatile. 28, 5'9", 160 lbs., with a tight smooth body. 24-hour, in-out sessions. $125-$200/hr. Video titles include "Black Attack," "Heatwaves," "Black Force" and many more. Visits are in person...Not associated with 976-WOLF. Safe sex okay. (E)

The Real McCoy. Very handsome Italian professional, 29, great body, offers custom-tailored 5-star bodywork to the discerning man. Atmosphere, style, technique and more. Quite simply...the best! 213-288-6800. (E)

DATING SERVICES

Dating service specializing in matching compatible lesbians, gay men, HIV+ men. $40/six months, $60/full year. Unlimited introductions. Matches based on profile, feedback, psychological research on compatibility, personal touch. License: Serving out of Southern California. Chums Introduction Network Service, Inc. 213-461-5664 or 800-231-CHUMS. (33)

WOMEN'S PERSONALS

Oakland California lesbian, 33, spiritual, intelligent, seeks friendships and correspondences of class and distinction. BLK Mailbox #145. (33)

Bi-black male seeking hard body, very dark, bi-black females for safe, sexual, no drug, no smoking, highly sexual encounters with myself and others. Call James, 213-969-4789. (33)

SBM, 40, very dominant arty type, likes straight, submissive bi-ladies, lesbians. No phonies, drugs. I'm hot and kinky. Hurry! BLK Mailbox #124. (E)

Hampton Roads, Virginia area. Single, black bisexual female, professional, 31, in search of feminine lesbian or bi-female for relationship varied interests. No fats, drugs, or marrieds. Photo and note appreciated to BLK Mailbox #121. (E)

Black woman, honest, clean, intelligent, professional, financially secure, optimistic, adventurous, spiritual, lesbian! Send descriptive letter, photo, etc. San Diego. BLK Mailbox #139. (32)

GBF, 25, graduate student, eclectic interests, multi-talented, new to the life, looking to connect with other GBFs from all over, especially Atlanta, Toledo/Detroit, D.C. for friendship and a sense of community. Will answer all. BLK Mailbox #132. (E)

BF, 26, student, not looking for romance through this ad. However, I would like to exchange postcards, short notes or long letters with women from all over. I live in Detroit. BLK Mailbox #107. (E)

Soulful, diamond in the raw, 19, African-American ISO lasting friendships with multi-cultured, positive lesbian sisters USA/abroad (18-?). Will answer all. Maria, 329 Childress Lane, Flora, MS 39071-9740. (E)

Fluffy, feminine, early 40s, fun-loving, witty, sensitive, romantic, who appreciates nature, intimacy, looking for independent butch. I am 5'7½", sexy, plump. Seek friendship first. Who knows what can happen? BLK Mailbox #115. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS INTERNATIONAL

Black Is Beautiful. Young man, 36, 5'10", 120#, blond, blue eyes, calm, serious, seeks very strong black bodybuilder. Write with photo: Lambert Pirotte, 43, rue Coplay, 4020 Wandre, Belgium. (33)

German man, 44, 170, seeks black man (top) for friendship. Letter, photo to Box 6526, D-7500 Karlsruhe 1, West Germany. (36)

Black man, 26, seeks penpals. Kofi, Box 482, Dansoman Est. Accra, Ghana, West Africa. (35)

GWM, teddy-bear, seeks dominant black male tops for intimate friendship and fun. Doug, #103-4800 Arbutus, Vancouver, BC V6J 4A5. 604-263-3991. (TF)

MEN'S PERSONALS—AZ

GWM, 62, bottom, 1651 E. Glenn #117, Tucson 85719. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—CA

Northern California

HBM, 36, 6'1", 160#, professional, swimmer's build, in good health, HIV-, romantic

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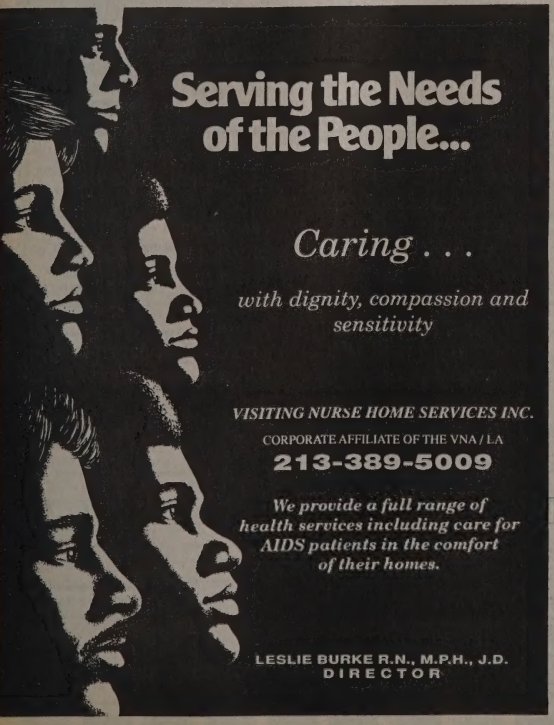

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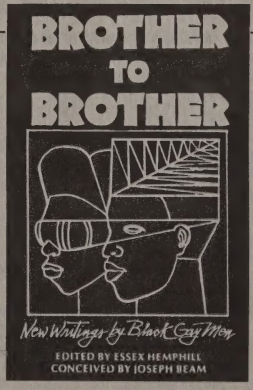
LESLIE BURKE R.N., M.P.H., J.D.
DIRECTOR

Black gay men are coming home

After the death of *In the Life* editor Joseph Beam, activist and poet Essex Hemphill carried on in his footsteps with this new anthology of fiction, essays, and poetry by black gay men. Contributors include Assoto Saint, Craig G. Harris, Melvin Dixon, Marlon Riggs, and many newer writers.



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conceived by Joseph Beam

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City_____

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Signed_____

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■ **Replying to a BLK Mailbox.** Only letters may be sent to BLK Mailboxes. They may not be used for the distribution of bulk mail or circulars. To reply, address your envelope:

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Los Angeles, California 90083-0912

THE RULES

■ Deadline: First Friday of the month of publication.

■ Ads received after deadline will appear in the following issue.

■ Open account billing available on approved credit. Terms: Net 10 EOM. Minimum charge is $15. *Credit must be approved in advance.*

■ **Rules and regulations.** *A word is any group of letters or numbers with a space on either side of it.* Free ads may run a maximum of three times, then must be renewed. We reserve the right to reject, rewrite or edit ads including those that advertise or solicit sexual acts considered unsafe by current AIDS criteria. Telephone numbers in ads must be verified prior to publication at a charge of $3 (within California $1). If a number has been previously verified by BLK, attach an ad containing the number to your new ad. Advertiser's complete name, address and authorizing signature must accompany ad. This information is confidential and will not appear in your ad.

BY TELEPHONE

■ You may place your ad by telephone and charge it to Visa, MasterCard or American Express if your order totals $15 or more.

■ Call toll-free 800-TRUE-BLK anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Tell the computer which credit card you have, the card number, expiration date and what you want your ad to say.

BY MAIL

■ Completely free ads may only be placed by mail.

■ Ads that are not completely free may be paid by check, Visa, MasterCard or American Express. Do not send cash.

■ Send to: BLK Classifieds, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912.

BY CREDIT CARD

VISA MasterCard AMERICAN EXPRESS Card

■ Minimum for credit card billing is $15 whether by phone or by mail.

Name of credit card_____ Expires_____

Credit card number_____

YOUR AD

■ **Print clearly what you want to appear in your ad. Use a separate sheet if you need more space.**

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■ **Figure cost of ad:**

____ words at 40¢ (8 free if personal ad)	$_____
____ words at 10¢ (employment ads)	$_____
Cost to run ad one month	$_____
Number of times you want ad to run _____	
Total cost of ads	$_____
Phone verification at $3 (within CA $1)	$_____
BLK Mailbox at $7 per month	$_____
One-year subscription at $18 to BLK	$_____
Total enclosed (send no cash)	$_____

and fun-loving. Wishes to meet or correspond with masculine Latino, P.R., Asian, black, 30-?, for friendship and possible relationship. No drugs, fats, fems. BLK Mailbox #144. (33)

GWM, 37, blonde, blue, muscular, bottom, wants GBM, dominant, top, into scenes. Phone sex okay. 1800 Market #230, San Francisco, 94102. 415-775-4919. (33)

TV wanted. Tony, 5337 College #516, Oakland, CA 94618. (35)

Emmette Mitchell, C-22649, C-7-110. Box 29, Represa, CA 95671. (35)

Daytime BJ for masculine, firm, drug-free, HIV- males. Tenderness. Respect expected. Men of color are special treats. Phone and photo appreciated. R.B., Box 21633, Concord, CA 94521. (34)

BM, 41, 5'8", 145, slim attractive, health-conscious, wants to pen-pal with other slim health-conscious black males around the same age. BLK Mailbox #141. (35)

WM, new to East Bay, 43, 185, 6'3", HIV+, non-smoker. Want to meet BM for friendship, love, and/or versatile safe sex. Box 56260, Hayward, CA 94545. (32)

Slender white bottom seeks hung GBM. Oakland area. Box 5294, Pleasanton, CA 94566. (34)

Attractive, muscular black man, 35, 5'11", 220, seeking other big, well-built men of any race between 20-50. French active/passive, J/O, oral body worship. Send letter with photo to 1221 Broadway, Plaza Level #13-131, Oakland, CA 94612. No fems, fats or phonies. (34)

GBM, 33, bottom, seeks top bi or GBM, discreet, bright. Box 70571, Oakland, CA 94612. (33)

San Diego Area

WM, 42, with long tongue and rim chairs seeks BM with bubble butt! Write to Box 1880, Cathedral City, CA 92235. (42)

Attractive black male 39, active French, passive Greek, seeks intelligent, hung top stud for serious relationship and fun. 619-JA1-1341. (40)

Latin professional male seeks masculine top, sincere, honest, non-bar type, no drugs, vices, non-smoker, desires quality long-lasting relationship. 619-295-4531. (35)

You: Hot top GBM. Me: Young Latino. 619-274-0507. (35)

Happy, healthy, and adventurous GBM, seeking sincere monogamous relationship with same. Serious replys only. Send photo with intro letter and phone number if interested. BLK Mailbox #136. (32)

New GBM to desert area. Seeking new friends possibly more. Call Bob, 619-329-7522. (32)

Are you 300 lbs., over 40, any color, reliable friend in San Diego and wish to meet sincere Italian 68, slender, endowed (6"), healthy and educated! Call 619-291-8966. (32)

White man seeks extra hung top. Tom, 619-262-6046. (34)

White hunk, 30, exhibitionist, seeks same. Box 33361 San Diego, CA 92163. (34)

BiBM seeks surfer. Box 126234, San Diego 92112. (35)

Los Angeles Area

Gay black Hispanic male, 41, ostensibly 28, into art and design, foreign films, jazz, and classical music. Attractive, intelligent, and very creative. Multi-faceted and multilingual. Cultivated yet free spirited. Caring and sincere. BLK Mailbox #143. (33)

Masculine black male, 32, 6'0", 150 lbs., seeks masculine, muscular types for friendship and J/O. Any race. No drugs. Robert, Box 1188, South Gate, CA 90280. (33)

BM, 6', 190, attractive, health conscious, romantic, honest, good sense of humor, seeks same, U. no tooth picks pls. fat or fem. 213-931-3412. (33)

Bi cowboy, blonde, goodlooking, hot bubblebutt, masculine, seeks, bi black or any race bodybuilder, macho, jock type. Military gay men okay. To ride this colt Buck, 213-438-1421. (33)

Grateful, attractive, healthy HIV+, GM, 30s, seeking man of character, warmth, humor and spiritual foundation. Into friends, family, music, movies, dancing, outdoors, sports, sober living, world cultures and unity. RU2? Please write to M.K., Box 661011, L.A. 90066. (34)

BM, HIV- like older WM friends. 2322 Redondo Blvd., L.A. 90016. (35)

Attractive GBM, HIV+, healthy, 5'7", 35, warm, loving and extremely affectionate, seeking a dominant (top)/masculine GBM, well endowed, 6'2" or taller, who enjoys romance, walks on the beach, movies, Bid Whist. and Spades, exercising together and fun times. I'm seeking a serious 1-1 partnership or relationship. If you are serious about spending quality time together, call Mikey 213-508-6220, leave your name and number and I'll call you back. All calls answered. Serious callers only please! (35)

Black L.A. racewalker attending Portland Marathon. Can other runners/racewalkers suggest inexpensive travel/accomodations? 213-882-4987. (33)

GBM: Mid 20's, 6ft, 165lbs, top, HIV-, educated, financially secure, masculine. Seeks similar GWM. Must be under 30, relationship-oriented (a must). No fats/fems/drugs. Rob, 4102 E. 7th St. #632, Long Beach, CA 90804. (33)

This non-stereotype blond Italian, 5'2", green eyes, 129 lbs., seeks very attractive and sensual G-Boy who is interested in more than just a one night. Versatile a plus. Please no obese or effeminate. If interested, call Sandro at 213-978-4018. (33)

Venice Beach. Half Japanese male seeks sincere relationship oriented black male for possibilities. Uncomplicated lifestyles and conversation appreciated. 213-399-2953. (33)

Lets rub until we cum. 213-852-0219. Arian. (35)

Just wanna have fun and beyond. Bi-BM wants to meet women and men. Ken. 213-465-8968. Serious only. (32)

Handsome black man, 35, 195#, well-built, who likes to workout with weights and jog on a daily basis, would like to meet honest, sincere person for friendship, white or hispanic, who loves the outdoors and some sports. Rod, 213-938-2004 before 11 p.m. (34)

Very hot butch blond bottom bodybuilder, 33, 5'6", 145, hot throat and ass, seeks dominant top black man. BLK Mailbox #137. (32)

GWM, 40s, seeks (1) super hung blk top man and (1) super hung blk bottom man for hot and safe 3-way sex. Write to Allen, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd. #109-332, West Hollywood, CA 90045. (34)

GBM wanted. Any age. For loving companionship, relationship. Me: GWM 50s, 6', 179 lbs., affectionate, HIV-. Will, 818-362-2022. (33)

If you could date an athletic attractive man, 24, you'd want to do it, correct? If polite and under 25, introduce yourself with a note! Box 3516 Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90274. (33)

Hot P.R. seeking one in-shape butch blk/Latin hung X-thick. Me: 37, 135#, 5'6". Willie, 213-657-2539. (34)

Fat GBM, 18-30, 250+# sought by GWM. R.A.S., Box 4013 Chatsworth, CA 91313-4013. (36)

Black bodyguard and companion wanted by wealthy GWM, 44, 200#, 8" for night time protection and pleasure on hilltop estate. Guard must be over 6', in shape, (BB pref.) and hung. Guest house, vehicle and salary to right person. Daytimes free. Photo and letter to Guard, Box 91744, City of Industry, CA 91715. (32)

Couple looking safe sex. Box 19543, LAX 90019-0543. (34)

Sexy Oriental TV, 27, wants to collect white jockey shorts. Picture and jockey is a must. You won't be disappointed. BLK Mailbox #138. (32)

Black queen, 38, tits, seeks slender light-skinned black man, thick dick, who is single parent, for dating and romance. I'm into safe sex. Call Nina at 213-480-0008. Please no fats. Must be a masculine gay man who is into queens or must be a bisexual man. Please do not call if you are not into queens. (32)

If you're blk and top man, enjoy getting sucked, well hung and horny, call Jim 818-344-1913. No calls on Sat. (32)

Satisfies loving. HIV- dad. Box 5950-243, Orange 92667. (35)

If you're GBM with a big cock, call Alex 818-896-8890. blond wants to please you. (34)

WM, 33, handsome, will lick young straight smooth black butts anytime and all the time! Large stocky butch guys only. Box 46841, Los Angeles 90046. (32)

Black male to meet hung male days. O.C.C., Box 19002, L.A. 90019. (34)

If you'd like to meet a warm, friendly, goodlooking, 6'1", 180#, 34 year old, GR/P, masculine, relationship minded GWM then write to Box 691943, Los Angeles, California 90069. You should be masculine, 28 to 40 years, top, and willing to take things slow and easy. No drugs please. (32)

Black is sexy and that's what I like. I'm a shy Latino. Call me. Richard, 213-465-8968. (32)

GBM, 28, 6', 165, attractive, light-skinned fun, discreet, given up on finding good solid lover relationship, seeking safe fun with attractive straight/married types for periodic visits. Prefer black, however other races are welcome. Call Steven in Glendale at 818-548-9539. No fats, fems or drugs. (32)

Stunning attractive GBM seeks WM for great times. Robert, 213-937-7622. (34)

Hot white guy to sucks black studs in leather only. R.W., 12021 Wilshire Blvd. ##899, Los Angeles, CA 90025. Photo. (32)

Commitment and values: B/M, 38, 5'11", 170, G/P seeks an affectionate tall G/A white or black top man 40-55 who likes 1-to-1, homelife, mountains and stability. Mel, Box 71247, L.A. 90071, 213-656-0528 ext. 22. (34)

Hot, friendly white guy with tight pussy ass needs it regularly/safely spread, filled and deep slow pumped by condomed boyfriend. Richie, Box 5791 Glendale, CA 91221-5791. (32)

Attractive black male, 5'10", 190 pounds, muscle-toned body, 34 years of age, seeks attractive, white male of the same stature or taller for outdoor fun, adventure, and quiet cozy evenings. No j/o calls. Relationship-oriented only. Call before 11 p.m. Ask for Biff. 213-931-3637. (32)

GWM, 25, seeks gay black or Hispanic male, under 30 years old, for dating, friendship and fun. Must have good sense of humor and positive outlook on life. Honesty, stability and romance are also important qualities. BLK Mailbox #142. (32)

Tall, affectionate black male, 33, muscular, "runner's build," seeks beefy, non-smoking white male weightlifter, 28-50, for cuddling. Brion, 929 S. Lake, Los Angeles, CA 90006. (32)

Football player, beefy weightlifter wanted. U—love to cuddle. I—love to massage. We—need to belong. Black man, 41, 5'9", 180, workout. Box 29037, Los Angeles, CA 90029. (32)

Sexy French muscular bodybuilder, 30, 5'10", 175 bubblebutt, green-blue eyes, longs for tall, massive, super muscular, thick, bodybuilder over 200 lbs., any race, for friendship and safe fun. Am discreet, sophisticated. 213-656-2942. (33)

GBM, 41, 5'11", 147, beard & moustache seeks GWM for sincere correspondence. All letters answered. Sumari, Box 69265, Los Angeles, CA 90069. (E)

Discreet professional black male, a body worshipper, seeks muscular, chubby, husky, bodybuilder type men with super, super big thighs & super, super big bubble butt for friendship. 213-933-3098. (E)

Commitment and values: B/M, 38, 5'11",

170, G/P seeks an affectionate tall G/A white or black top man 40-55 who likes 1-to-1, homelife, mountains and stability. Mel, Box 712427, Los Angeles, CA 90071. 213-656-0258 ext. 22. (34)

Sincere, slender black male artist seeks handsome, very aggressive, versatile, sincere, homo erectus, any race. No chubbies, queens or losers. Call 213-661-1431. (33)

Gay male, 37, 5'9", 165 lbs., blue eyes, into classic film, music, sunset walks at the beach, seeks intelligent, aware individual for mutually-fulfilling companionship. Please call Bruce at 213-338-9695. (33)

MEN'S PERSONALS—CO

Caribbean man wants tops with thick dicks. Box 18714, Denver, CO 80218. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—CT

Congenial white male ISO black male. Box 284, Hartford, Connecticut 06141-0284. (TF)

MEN'S PERSONALS—DC

Gay black male, 5'10", 192 pounds, straight-appearing, romantic, would like to meet Canadian or European gay, white of similar characteristics. Must be straight-appearing, stocky or muscular. Will visit Europe this fall. Box 15331, Washington, DC 20003. (32)

GWM seeks GBM hung huge. 202-483-3693. (E)

Single African-American male 26, 5'9" slender, light complexioned, masculine, healthy and intelligent and very conscious. Seeking friendship and correspondence with intelligent serious minded, independent masculine, light skin brother or Puerto Rican brother age 20-29. Let's write with photos and letters to Eric, Box 39215, Washington, D.C. 20016. Peace brother. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—FL

Blk/M, 24, wants to meet males 18-30. I'm 24, 5'5", 170, 8". Tampa and other Florida males write Box 172551, Tampa, FL 33672. (35)

GWM, 39, 5'9", 144, mature, educated, affectionate, seeks non-smoking men of similar age and any race. John, Box 2354, Winter Haven, FL 33883. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—GA

GBM 30 195 seeks J/O partner GBM 24-30. Box 54894, Atlanta, GA 30308. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—HI

You are top, hung, HIV+ and want to enjoy life. Loving home waiting for you in Hawaii. Write: Boxholder, Box 75704, Honolulu, HI 96836. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—IL

Health care provider seeking some special individual to care for me and about me. I'm GBM and a very sweet person to know! Seeking possible long-term relationship accompanied by eurphoric passion. Legal age to 50. Just be fantastic. I fantasize Bo Jackson and Michael Jordan types, especially with brains. I'm a health conscious, realistic individual. Basically quiet—a homebody—not domestic. I love life and people as much as they allow me to. Just one fall back, I have to work at living positively with an HIV+ status. It takes a special person not to turn the other way. Could you be him? If so, contact me. Let's talk. Occupant, c/o Ean C., Box 578323, Chicago, IL 60657-8323. (35)

Black Bi male, 5'9", 155 lbs., masculine, muscular, X-Marine, 29, 8½ and thick. Seeks Blk or Hispanic right guy, non-fat, non-fem. Me: versatile w/foot fetish. Box 06283, Chicago, IL 60606-0283. (34)

GBM, 28, just came out, desire new friends. Age, race unimportant. Sincerity is. Photo requested, not necessary. Will answer all replies. Gene, Box 2873, Carbondale, IL 62902. (33)

Gay white male seeks gay black male, 30s, in Chicago, Illinois. 312-525-1267. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—KY

Gay white male, 29, looking for sincere blacks for possible relationship. Can relocate anywhere upon release. James Fitzgerald #98743, Northpoint Training Center, Box 479, Burgin, KY 40310. (32)

MEN'S PERSONALS—LA

GWM, 47, 6', 175, non-smoker, moustache, hairy chest, enjoys reading, traveling, movies and dining out. Seeking masculine male, 35-50, with similar interests for friendship and more. Please send letter and photo to Dick, Box 15078, New Orleans, LA 70175. All replies answered. (33)

Gay black father seeks friendship/relationship with other gay fathers black or white or those who appreciate children who have reached adolescent age. I am a warm sensitive romantic in search of others who are family-oriented. Write Ly-Leh, Box 144, Evergreen, LA 71333. (E)

Black male, seeking bi-couples, TVs, TSs, drag queens, crossdressers, any race, any shape, ages 21 to 55, for friendship, kinky times, swinging. Am clean and discreet. Like all cultures. Motel meetings in Natchez, Mississippi, Vidalia, Louisiana, Ferriday, Louisiana area. Call anytime day or night. 318-339-9269. C.B., Box 941, Jonesville, LA 71343. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MD

Nice guy seeks same for friendship. This 50-year-old straight-acting WM is looking for a very masculine BM. Pleasant disposition, positive outlook and stability are important to me. Blue collar, thick endowment and trim build are pluses. Send detailed letter and photo of yourself to: BLK Mailbox #118 or call 301-779-6738. Pen pals welcome. Visitors to D.C. should call in advance of arrival. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MA

WM, 53, seeks thin, romantic, clean black male in Boston. Call 617-524-0417. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MI

WM, 32, 5'7", 155#, would like to meet BM for wild and freaky times. I am into leather and have a bubble butt. You must also! Possibilities for a relationship. No J/O calls. 313-527-2965. (35)

Professional masculine GBM, 31, 6'2", 190#, HIV+, enjoy running, skiing, cooking and still dream about romance. Frustrated with the Detroit scene. I would like to meet/correspond with other masculine (not into roles) HIV+, GLatin/GB males for friendship and maybe more. I do not use drugs/smoke. Write. There is nothing to loose, but everything to gain. BLK Mailbox #135. (33)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MS

Handsome Samson. Brent, Unit 28, #44219 Parchman, MS. (34)

Sex god. Butler, Unit 28, #45779 Parchman, MS. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NV

GWM, 35+, 5'10", 155#, G/P, F/A, masculine, stable, multifaceted, seeks loving relationship with sincere successful GBM having similar goals and interests. Travel can be arranged. Call Mike directly. 702-792-6737. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NJ

Latin male, professional, clean, masculine, mid-forties, seeks the same in a black older gentleman only. No vices or pain. Occupant, Box 392, Passaic, NJ 07055. (34)

White male, 32, 160, brown hair, blue eyes, seeking young males for friends/sexual partners. Prefer cute, slim, smooth, cut, clean-shaven boyish Northern European, black and Southeast Asians. Like music, philosophy, science, health food. Am honest, sensitive, sincere. Live-in possible. No V.D., kinky/slutty types. Photo a must (preferably revealing)! Ron, Box 307, Irvington, NJ 07111-1940. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NY

Slim WM, 49, dad/top, seeks FA son/bottom. Box 3042, NYC 10008. (33)

Masculine WM, 41, seeks top BM. BLK Mailbox #134. (32)

White professional seeks black man. Smith, 118 Second St., Albany, 12210.(E)

GWM, 42, 5'1", 125 lbs, brown hair, blue eyes, eyeglasses, considered cute. Cigarettes, wine, dancing, antiques, movies, rock, classical, quiet nights at home. Mature, responsible, warm, gentle, loving. Seek black male 40+, same attributes for friendship and possibly more. Rochester, N.Y. area. Serious replies only, send photo. BLK Mailbox #133 (E)

Lean, muscular, GBM, top, 52, 6', 155, seeks fit, muscular, intelligent bottoms, into camping, hiking, nudism, travel, all ages/races. J. Tree, Box 161, S.I., NY 10304. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—OH

W/M 26, smooth bottom. Sami Cripple. R138659, Box 120 Lebanon, OH 45036. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—OK

Goodlooking GBM. Raibon #33325-004, Box 1500, El Reno, OK 78067. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—SC

Attractive, masculine, GBM, 25, would like to meet GBM from everywhere who could teach an inexperienced ex-prisoner of guilt about being gay. The joy of gay sex! Am very eager to learn. Send your hottest letters and nude photos. In return you'll get mine. M.T., Box 12143, Cola, South Carolina. No fems, please! (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—TX

Seeking GBM. Attractive GWM, 31, 6'1", 200 lbs., seeks blk male for friendship, love and more. Call or write Dennis Seay, Box 710048, Houston, TX 77271. 713-777-8342. (33)

GWM, 55, 5'8", 150, attractive Utah professional, seeks GBM or Latin athlete, non-smoker, non-drinker, non-drug user. If you fit this description and are seriously looking for a quality one-one relationship, call 801-364-2523. (32)

MEN'S PERSONALS—VA

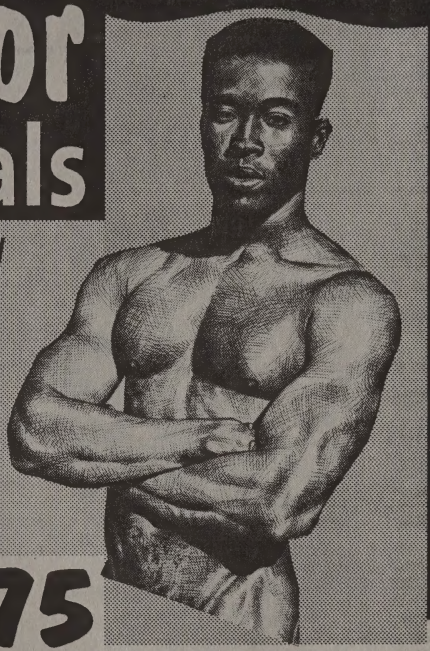
Suck me. Balsom, Box 430, Dillwyn, VA 23936. (35)

GWM, 55, 160#, 5'9", stable, sane, secure, non-smoker/drinker, HIV negative, seeks similar black male under 40 years old, non-obese for friendship, good times, mutual pleasures and possible relationship. Box 23093, Alexandria, VA 22304. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—WA

GWM, Christian desires GBM friendship. B.H., Box 3263, Seattle, WA 98144. (34)

Men of Color Phone Personals



A Phone Personals, dating & friendship service exclusively for men of all races who prefer Men of Color.

- ▼ "Talking" personal ads from local men
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- ▼ Your ad on-line for 60 days
- ▼ Cancel anytime for any reason!

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LATINS

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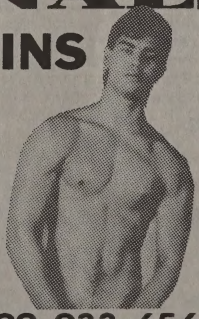
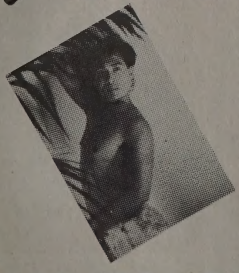


1-900-933-6565

Asians



.99/min

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BODY BUILDERS

.95/min

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Mature/40+

For mature gay men & the younger men who love them.

.99/min

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PHONE ONLY!

For those who prefer to meet others for phone contact only.

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Call Now!

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$1 Per Min • $2 Connection Charge • Must Be 18 Or Older • Prices Subject To Change Without Notice

THE NATIONAL BLACK LESBIAN AND GAY NEWSMAGAZINE

BLK

Young, Gifted and Fierce

Vol. 3, No. 8
Whole No. 33
August 1991

Join *Ms.* DIONNE WARWICK and BISHOP CARL BEAN

COMING HOME 4

For Friends

ANNUAL GOSPEL BENEFIT

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1991

Shrine Auditorium

Doors open 6:30 p.m. ★ *Curtain at 7:00 p.m.*

GENERAL ADMISSION: *$10, $15, $25* **VIP SEATING:** *$100*

We invite everyone to come and experience an evening of foot-stomping, hand-clapping music . . . that breaks down all barriers, providing comfort, support and healing for all.

Place your orders now! Tickets go on sale soon at the

MINORITY AIDS PROJECT

5149 West Jefferson Blvd.

For more information call:

213 • 936 • 4949

This year we honor

The Unforgettable

Ms. Natalie Cole

And from the World of Gospel,

we honor:

The First Lady of Gospel

Ms. Tramaine Hawkins

The Gospel Legend

Cassietta George

The World Renown

Pentacostal Community Choir

and Singer & Music Director

Extraordinaire

Henry Jackson

We are also

honoring our very own

Champion of Fairness and Equality

Senator Diane E. Watson

WORD UP

BY LEON MILLER

have banned Donna Summer oldies from their jukeboxes will have to keep up their embargoes a little longer.

And speaking of embargoes, remember the boycott against Coors?

It seems a worker at the Coors plant in Golden, Colo. turned the wrong valve and sent at least 155,000 gallons of beer into the adjacent Clear Creek, killing 3,000 fish.

THE SUMMER OF OUR DISCONTENT

Remember Donna Summer? Remember when the disco diva dissed the community calling gay men "sinners" and saying that AIDS was "a divine ruling"?

In an attempt to put the still lingering controversy behind her, Summer asked composer Paul Jabara to create an apologetic response in song. Although Donna liked the tune, and recorded the song, she left it off her new album.

Guess those bars that

AS LONG AS THE CLOSET DOORS ARE CLOSED

Rita Dyson, of the Black and Latino Multicultural Book Center in Pasadena, Calif. recently returned copies of several different issues of BLK we had sent to her—with permission—for free distribution at her store. A note which accompanied the returns stated, "No interest. Thank you."

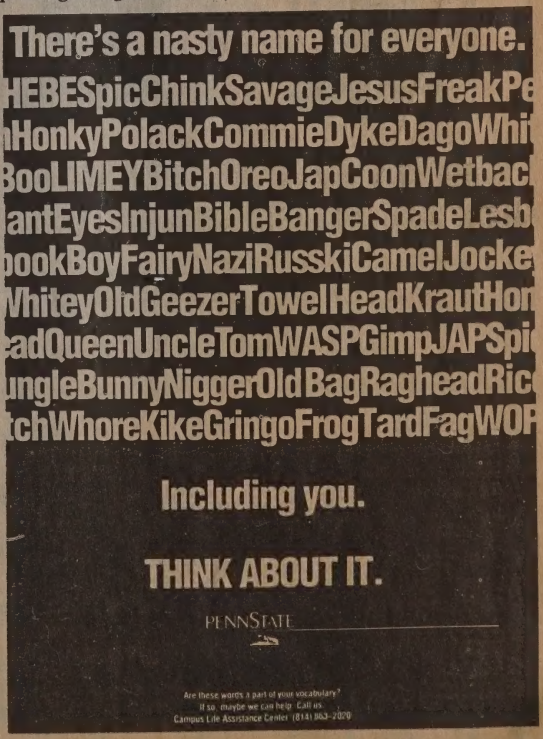
I called Dyson and we talked for quite a while. She gave the usual litany of homophobic justifications: parents come to her store, children could see the material, black boys already have enough "problems," people should keep their sexuality quiet, there are too many black women and not enough eligible black men, people aren't born "that way" and homosexuals actively "recruit" unsuspecting straights.

The Black and Latino Multicultural Book Center is located at 23 N. Mentor Ave., Pasadena, Calif. 91106. Their telephone number is 818-792-0117.

NASTY NAMES FOR EVERYONE

The fifth Penn State University poster developed in the past four years to address issues of diversity on the campus is a listing of all the bad words under the heading "There's a nasty name for everyone."

It's simple, and hopefully, effective.



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BLK MAIL

JOE SIMMONS: PRO AND CON

Dear Editor:

Thanks for that wonderful interview article with Joe Simmons. He is my most loved black actor in porno movies. I've caught him live in New York a couple of times. I do not have the guts to walk up to him and say I love your shows or videos.

He has a lovely body and should continue taking good care of himself. I also have a couple of his movies.

At any rate I want to say thanks for the interview which gave us more about one of the hottest porn stars today. Keep up the good work, Joe.

Gerry
Jacksonville, Fla.

Dear Editor:

Whomever your appointee is, needs to have their head examined. If they could not take out the time to, review your record or even question your interests in the betterment of the community at hand.

In the past, five pages of BLK reading material has been most informative and educational! How someone allowed you to waste good paper on a classic Uncle Tom, I'll never know. I wonder, was Tom given in the Mapplethorpe's *Black Book*, due to the fact he is a Tom or he just looked like a Tom? Hm? In the 30 plus films I've seen Simmons in, not once, once mind you has this thing bent over for a brother—a white boy, yes several—but not a black man.

In closing I'd really enjoy the entertainment in your magazine. Yet, if this type of stupidity continues, I'll seek other sources of reading material. Yes, the lose of one or two readers will not harm you or your paper. In time it will harm the community and your job.

In the name of blackminds and beauty I bid you peace, good luck, love and high hopes your act comes together soon.

Denique Clark
New York, N.Y.

Dear Editor:

First of all; hats off to Alan Bell for doing a fine interview and a superb introduction on Joe Simmons. Certainly he has a knack for putting people in the best light.

But since no one else is bringing up certain issues some of us have the responsibility in broaching certain topics. Things that concern us—black gay men—because if we don't consider our needs and truths important no one else will.

I'm writing in regards to your interview with porn star Joe Simmons in your June 1991 issue. It's interesting the way you see a person afar and you imagine them to be the person you wish them to be. However an interview cracks the illusion as they tell about their life, likes, dislikes, habits, dreams and observances.

This interview reminded me of another interview *B.F.P. Tribune* did with black porn star Tory Bell. These interviews read similar in certain ways. Uncanny? They deny being gay but they do gay porn flicks. They have never had a lover, not looking for one yet they have had girlfriends and have not ruled out marriage. They do things to get $ from the gay community but don't take gays seriously.

What does this say about we as black gay men?

We allow these: trade, bisexual, mess-arounders, straight, whatever they call themselves, to come into our bars and cruise women. They make porn movies and photo shots that we buy and they make no apology that this is only until something better comes along.

If Mr. Simmons doesn't have need for a lover and as the interviewer asked "Not even boyfriends or short term affairs?" then what need do we have for him? I don't know how other black men feel but this is how I feel about it.

No, Mr. Simmons you cannot bring your fine as all outdoors black ass to the peep shows and porn mags of America and tell us you don't have time to even take one of us seriously. What are you waiting on or looking for? Right after your interview is the story of "D" Cannon a black man who won International Mr. Leather 1991. But I guess he's not good enough for you because you're a "rebel." A rebel without a heart?

Some serious dialogue is going to have to be initiated because when our most

"Uh, oh. Got any rubbers?"

intelligent charismatic black men each choose to be an autonomous nation then what does that say about the potential just waiting to happen but won't because....

Yet as usual none of us escape being black. Look at us. Joe talked about the blatant racism in the porn industry even against top draws such as himself. Isn't it strange he can put all of this behind him and still identify himself as all-American? He still wants to work with whites and doesn't have time for one of us.

He says he travels a lot and that would get in the way of a relationship. I say thank God for the postal service and the telephone company. And quality time.

A question I would have asked Joe is; When you're up against racism such as, "We can't put you on the cover of our magazine because you're black," do you unconsciously fault other blacks who are lagging behind as the reason for your being discriminated against?

I don't mean to cast aspersions but a lot of us are running away from ourselves. There is a thing called a black connection—it's soul, it's being and it's black men loving black men. Because of our own oppression and homophobia our interconnection has been hidden from us and the truth is a lot of us are dying inside and don't know why.

There are myriad roads we can take that promise victory if the challange is met but our hearts only ask we come home to ourselves, first. Then we can conquer the world. Which I'm sure men like Joe Simmons and "D" Cannon want to do anyway. Peace.

Michael Douglas
Houston, Tex.

AN APPALLING ABOMINATION

Dear Editor:

As president of the Minority Business Association, I feel that it is not in the best of interest to remain silent on the issue of bill AB 101.

The thought of the possibility of homosexuals being legally recognized as minorities appalls me. And the fact that two black politicians, namely Diane Watson and Curtis Tucker support this bill is sickening.

Since when does a chosen lifestyle justify calling someone a minority under the same definition given to minorities who have had to suffer and die to receive rights, that we could not briginally have because of something we had no control over: the color of our skin!

Our organization will be planning a march with local businesses and churches opposed to the passage of this bill in the very near future in the West Hollywood area. We will also keep in mind, come the next election, the stand taken by Senator Watson, and Assemblyman Tucker.

For a country built on the slogan, "In God We Trust," I sometimes wonder what are we coming to.

Homosexuality is an abomination to God and most Americans, but if we sit back and do nothing, this abomination will be the downfall of life as we know it. I trust you will publish this letter in your next publication.

James L. Thomas
Inglewood, Calif.

BLK

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ON THE COVER: Pomo-Afro-Homos. Photo by Darius Blair.

BLK PEOPLE

LOS ANGELES Jackie Gelfand has been appointed the Director of Youth Services for the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center.

DALLAS David Wilson, just recently named Mr. Dallas All-American 1992, became first alternate in the Mr. Texas All-American 1992 contest.

NEW YORK David Rousseve, who performed recently as part of the Los Angeles and San Francisco program "Black Choreographers Moving Towards the 21st Century," with his autobiographical dances pieces, was profiled in the *Advocate.*

OAKLAND Pomo Afro star Bernard Branner was M.C. at the East Bay benefit premiere showing of *Paris Is Burning.*

HONOLULU Audre Lorde, recuperating nicely from her chemotherapy, traveled to the Hawaiian islands to view the sun's eclipse in July.

LOS ANGELES Psychologist Don Norman is resting comfortably at home on a doctor-ordered vacation following minor back surgery.

NEW YORK Eric Stephen Booth, author of the play *Je Ne Regrette Rien,* was one of 18 to win a $1500 Bronx Council on the Arts BRIO award.

LOS ANGELES Poet and performance artist Michelle T. Clinton and painter and performance artist Marcus Kuiland-Nazario (with his "sister," Carmen), were among the speakers on political correctness at the Lesbian and Gay Rights Chapter of the ACLU.

ST LOUIS Diedre McCalla performed at the Twist on July 12, meeting first with fans at WestEnd Way.

LOS ANGELES Lyle Ashton Harris presents his photography in a group show, "Presenting Rearwards," at the Rosamund Felsen Gallery through Sept 7.

LOS ANGELES Jewel Thaïs-Williams celebrates Catch-A-Burger's first anniversary this month.

WASHINGTON The most widely read African-American syndicated columnist, Carl Rowan, has come down squarely in favor of lesbians and gays serving in the military.

SEATTLE J.J. Jackson has been promoted to Regional Manager of Hamburger Mary's, the restaurant and bar chain.

ATLANTA Maurice O'Brien Franklin is National Director of the National AIDS Awareness Program of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

WASHINGTON Spreading the word in the black and Latino communities about AIDS is Larry Spivey through his now popular safe sex home parties.

SAN DIEGO Rev. Delores Berry held a Spiritual Renewal Weekend at MCC-San Diego.

WASHINGTON Ernest Hopkins, the representative of the D.C. Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gay Men, has been elected co-chair of the Domestic Partnership Coalition.

SAN FRANCISCO Essex Hemphill, Marlon Riggs and Alan Miller read from their own work as well as other contributors to their book, *Brother to Brother,* in a benefit July 27 hosted by the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention.

SEATTLE Sherry Harris, lesbian candidate for the Seattle City Council, has been endorsed by the newly formed Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, a newly established political action committee based in D.C.

PHILADELPHIA Lesbian poet Jourdan Keith was profiled in *Philadelphia Gay News* in last month.

CHICAGO Mike Scott won the Calendar Boy contest at the L.A. Connection.

LOS ANGELES Antonio Le Mons was interviewed on KCLA's *Limuel on Your Radio Show* Aug. 17.

LOWELL, Mass. Samuel R. Delany was guest of honor at the Gaylaxian Science Fiction Society's third annual convention held in Tewksbury, Mass. Hannah M.G. Shapero will appear as artist guest of honor.

LOS ANGELES Desmond Fletcher, Reginald Chapple, Parnell Marcano, Ron Willis, Joe Hawkins were the recipients of "Ron Grayson Awards" at last month's BMX/LA anniversary party. Other special awards went to Arthur Crump, Greg Coleman, Hopeton Stewart and co-founder Cleo Manago.

NEW YORK Dr. Parris Kidd, author of *Living with the AIDS Virus: A Strategy for Long Term Survival,* spoke at the Educational Forum Aug. 16.

WASHINGTON Alexander Robinson is leaving his top post at the Inner City AIDS Network to take a lobbying spot with the ACLU.

HOUSTON Loynell Brooks was named Mr. Houston All-American 1992 in a contest held at Heaven.

SAN FRANCISCO Brian Freeman and Jackie Goldsby were on the Who Is 'We'?" panel as part of the Out/Look Foundation's HomoSocial series.

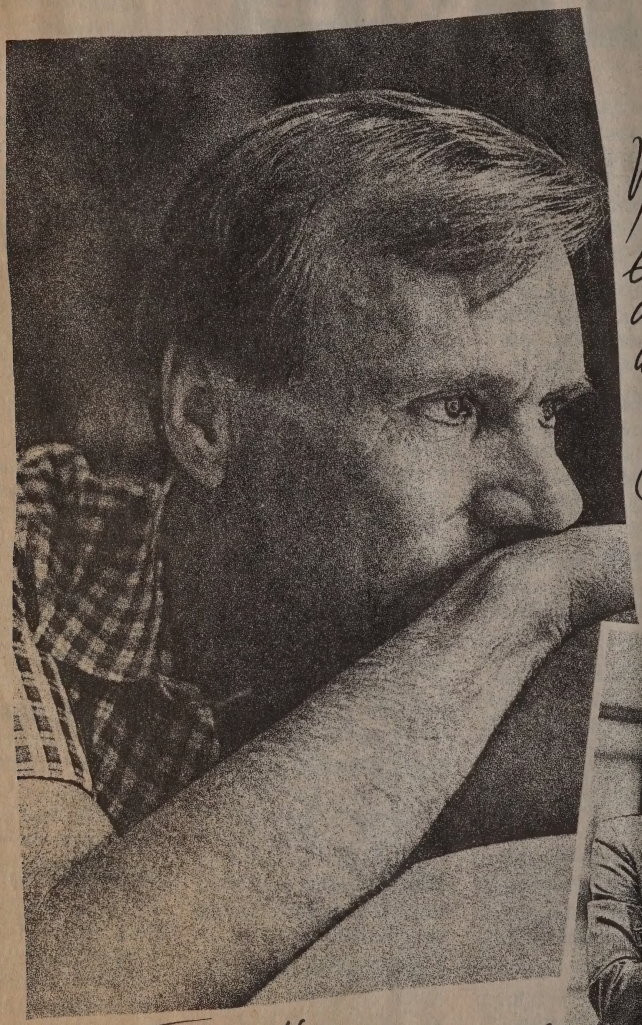
WASHINGTON Magic Turney and Sheri Marshall were on hand to help at the Friends United to Assist Jody Wildy Fund fundraiser last month.

BALTIMORE Mandy Carter was a keynote speaker at the 16th annual Southeastern Conference for Lesbians and Gay Men.

CHICAGO Ramsey Lewis will be among the celebrity M.C.s at AIDSWalk Sept. 22.

NEW YORK Chris Hansen says *au revoir* to MACT/NY after 21 years in the Big Apple to take a new position in Chicago.

LIVING WITH HIV



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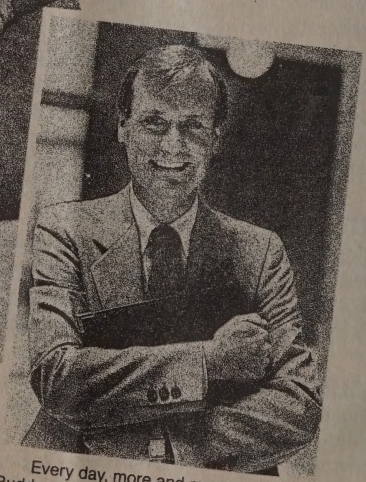

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Young, Gifted and Fierce

Telling very real stories makes heroes of three very real black gay men.

BY ALAN E. MILLER

After his just-completed performance of *Fierce Love: Stories from Black Gay Life* in Santa Monica's Highways Performance Space, Director Brian Freeman had a moment of trepidation. Two members of the audience converged upon him offering congratulations, his brother Malik, and Los Angeles-based performance artist Vaginal Creme Davis (sans drag). Freeman said "I didn't want to introduce them, but I did. I said 'Malik, this is Vadge; Vadge, Malik.' That was a strange moment for me. Under different circumstances, those two would cross the street to avoid one another, but on that occasion, they talked for quite awhile."

"In one way, they have a great deal in common, in terms of the fact that they are both black men who have embraced, for whatever reasons, new names and new identities. My brother's given name is Mark, and Vaginal, well..." Naturally, it is strange and disturbing to Freeman that many black theaters have refused to book or even to consider *Fierce Love*. They have, in effect, prevented the kind of dialogue between black lesbians and gay men and the black heterosexual community represented by that chance meeting of Malik and Vaginal. After an amiable, and even encouraging, discussion with one of the coordinators of the National Black Theatre Festival in Winston-Salem, N.C., Freeman sent a videotape. He has still not received a written response clarifying why *Fierce Love* was rejected. This was surprising to him not only because he had previously brought shows to the Festival, but also because in his initial contact with the coordinator he had forthrightly discussed its "controversial" content.

Fierce Love consists of 12 vignettes which tells some of the stories of black gay men. This collection is strong on storytelling in voices that are varied. One brother coyly relates a steamy safe sex scene with another brother in a jerk off club. Three outrageous sissies flaunt the qualities that have led their status-conscious brothers to reject them—and create their own club and rules. (And so the "Just Us Club" is born.) Three butch queens perform a rap about the meaning of red bandannas in the right hip pocket. *In Living Color*'s Blaine and Antoine find themselves "outed." These are a few of the voices commanding the attention of sold-out audiences in Los Angeles, Seattle and San Francisco and soon in New York and San Diego.

Despite their success, they have been barred access to a larger, wider audience. National Public Radio's *Morning Edition* aired an interview with the cast, but its multicultural affairs program rejected the show. Despite that Freeman has routinely contacted the black press where the show has been performed, they have been uniformly unresponsive. The lesbian and gay press and even the straight establishment press in each of their venues thus far on the other hand, have provided not only favorable but rave reviews. The three performers who constitute Pomo-Afro-Homos (Post-modern African-American Homosexuals), Brian Freeman, Bernard Branner and Eric Gupton, were even designated as "Heroes" in the San Francisco *Sentinel* special Lesbian and Gay Pride Week issue. The July 2 issue of *The Advocate* featured a review of the show. A San Francisco area television show *Bay Sunday* featured members of Pomo-Afro-Homos on Lesbian and Gay Pride Day. Freeman finds this response heartening, though it doesn't assuage his feelings of neglect by the black community. The gay press's response is not surprising to him since, he says, black gay men have

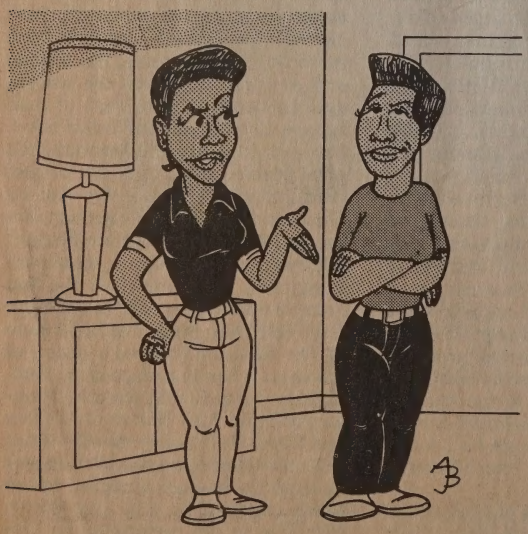
been working to make the lesbian and gay press more responsive. He believes the same kind of process needs to happen within the black community. His membership in the black gay men's support group, Black Gay Men United, has helped.

"Without the group," he says, "I never could have done this show. BGMU is where I learned to see what was in front of my eyes. When I joined, I thought of the group as a place to do my activist thing. I was initially very dismissive. What I came to find was an incredible sense of community solidarity. It was a place where I was not expected to play a particular role. I didn't have to pretend to be gayer, to be blacker. I could just be myself."

Freeman, who appeared in fellow BGMU member Marlon Riggs's *Tongues Untied,* says that Riggs's choreopoem/documentary helped the creation and evolution of *Fierce Love.* "It definitely mattered that Marlon was there doing his work, that [Joseph Beam's pioneering anthology of black gay writing] *In The Life* was there, and that the brothers in Other Countries (the New York-based writing workshop and journal) were doing their work. This play is definitely a product of the pieces that have come before it, and this play reflects the fact that we are learning to see each other as valuable people in each other's lives. For many of us, as black gay men living in urban areas, this is something new, this sense of creating a larger black gay community. Culture is something that definitely helps us build communities that we can live in."

BGMU also helped Freeman write parts of *Fierce Love* in a more practical sense. "I knew BGMU would laugh at this stuff. I could hear them. I knew people had this sensibility. That's very important to my putting this work together. What surprised me—and even shocked me—is that other communities appreciated the show, that even straight people liked it. Another thing that I have learned is that this show has had some practical value. I can't tell you how many times people have come up to me and told me that they have told off the real-life counterparts of the straight-acting (and married) gay character that I play. The audiences are usually really vocal, which I like. It's practice for real-life confrontations with these characters."

His continuing efforts reflect not only commitment to bridging gaps and creating dialogue, but also a developing sense of what the past wrought and what the future should bring. "We know who this show is for, but white folks and straight folks need to hear it, too. We sit through *Terminator 2* and the *Cosby Show* without seeing ourselves. Instead of viewing homosexuals as one more problem, let's look at lesbians and gays as part of the solution. After all, we've always been part of the solution. Look at Langston Hughes or James Baldwin or Pat Parker or Lorraine Hansberry. Are they part of the problem or part of the solution?"



"I don't see that 'bull' has anything to do with it."

Freeman was with the renowned San Francisco Mime Troupe for eight years, both on the stage and behind it. The political edge and the satire which the Mime Troupe is known for are evident in *Fierce Love.* Some of his sense of craft and attentiveness to black audiences is no doubt due to Freeman's three season apprenticeship with the Negro Ensemble Theatre in New York. There he worked with Douglas Turner Ward, Sheryl Lee Ralph, Clinton Turner Davis and Larry Fishburne, among others.

One project he has considered is a kind of "looking for Bayard," an examination of one of the architects of the 1963 March on Washington, Bayard Rustin. Freeman says "I'm just beginning to deal with black gay themes. I want to talk about being black and gay in the context of the larger community. The question I'd like to explore is 'Who are we at home?' Bayard Rustin is interesting to me because of his proximity to America's favorite icon, Dr. Martin Luther King. That says a lot to me. That Martin Luther King's right hand man was a black gay man is fascinating. It is difficult to gain access to information about that. For now though, I'm working hard to take *this* show as many places as I can. Everywhere we've travelled we've gotten outstanding reviews. In addition to Seattle, we've been to the Los Angeles area twice, first to the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum Conference and then recently to Santa Monica where we also did a benefit for them. In the Bay Area, we've done benefits for AIDS organizations, too. We'll go wherever we can get an audience."

That *Fierce Love* has been featured or reviewed in each of the Bay Area's major newspapers is something that cast member Bernard Branner finds perplexing. Even though all the attention is positive, with many of the publications dubbing it a "must-see," Branner says, "It's very strange to pick up every newspaper in town and find your face there." The Los Angeles performances were important ones for Branner too, since he is a native of that city, and most of his family still resides there. "It was hard," says Branner, "to perform there, in front of my family. I was apprehensive about how they would deal with the content, but they sat right in front, and they loved it. They *loved* it. Even so, it was hard for me."

"My brothers wouldn't even come to the show. It is a sensitive issue in my family since my oldest brother kicked his own son out of the house for being gay."

For Branner, as for Freeman, *Tongues Untied* and BGMU helped in the process of coming out and of integrat-

ing the various aspects of his life. The play has strengthened his gay identity despite the fact that Branner had performed and written about the experiences of black gay men as early as 1979, when he staged a theater piece called *Evolution of the Blues* in the town of Santa Cruz, where he earned his B.A. at the University of California. He describes the piece as "a black diva's revenge in a bar where nobody pays any attention to her." The hilariously choreographed "Red Bandannas" had its roots in a poem Branner wrote in 1983, but as the performer notes, "It didn't have a rap beat then." Additionally, Branner included aspects of homosexuality in his thesis performance at San Francisco State University in 1990 where he received an M.A. in Interdisciplinary Arts. That piece, *Flesh and Spirit,* combined traditional Haitian dance and folklore with homosexual content. According to him, "People forget that there are homosexuals in traditional cultures and movements. People like to forget that. Just like snapping and vogueing and a lot of popular slang. How many people know where that stuff came from? My thesis performance and this play too are ways of appropriating things that are ours as black gay men."

After *Tongues Untied* aired over a year ago, Branner found himself dealing openly with his gay identity at work for the first time. "One of my [high school] students said 'I saw you on TV last night, movie star.' Naturally, this made all the other students curious, but they were very receptive. *Fierce Love* has been a continuation of that process, of connecting different aspects of my life. Now I'm out with the people at work. They may have known before that I was gay, but I had never talked about my lifestyle with them before the show opened."

"Since then, they have been very supportive. Many of my co-workers have come to the show. The teachers at the elementary school where I work saw reviews in the paper and came, some of them three and four times. My adult (Haitian) dance students have come, too. (Branner continues to teach dance and to direct the Flesh and Spirit Performance Company.) *Fierce Love* has made my life more holistic. I don't feel I have to hide anymore. I feel I can be more open, not just in public, but in relationships too. What that means to me is that this work is about empowerment. It has helped me continue to become empowered in my own life."

"What I find most rewarding," says Branner, "is talking to other black gay men and realizing how empowering the work is for them. Whether they write or just talk, the show helps them believe that their stories are important enough to tell." Branner has discovered that the show has meaning for a wider audience than black gay men, though there is no mistaking its primary audience.

Branner finds the rejection of *Fierce Love* by the National Black Theatre Festival incongruous with the response the play has received from all of its audiences. He says, "I try not to get upset, because it's their loss," but he is hard-pressed to hide his anger and disappointment. "They should at least have the balls to tell us why we were rejected. The thing is, I don't expect to find a home there, nor do I have the energy to fight them. It's much more important to continue doing the work, fighting the fight in that way."

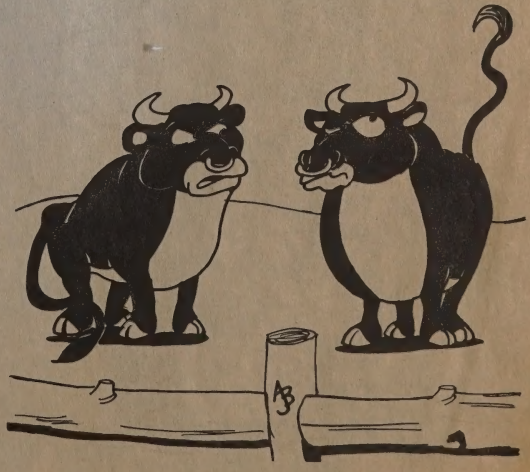
When Branner was in the audience watching Freeman and other gay men of color on a recent Bay Area talk show *People are Talking,* he noted that "our agenda was different from that of the hosts. We wanted to talk about homophobia in communities of color, but they seemed to want to start a fight between us and white gay men. It is important that we not get sidetracked into fighting someone else's fight."

After seeing Branner as "Popcorn" it is difficult to believe him when he says "The hardest thing for me to do in the show is the sissies because I had disassociated myself from that part of myself long ago. Doing the show meant that now I had to get in touch with them again."

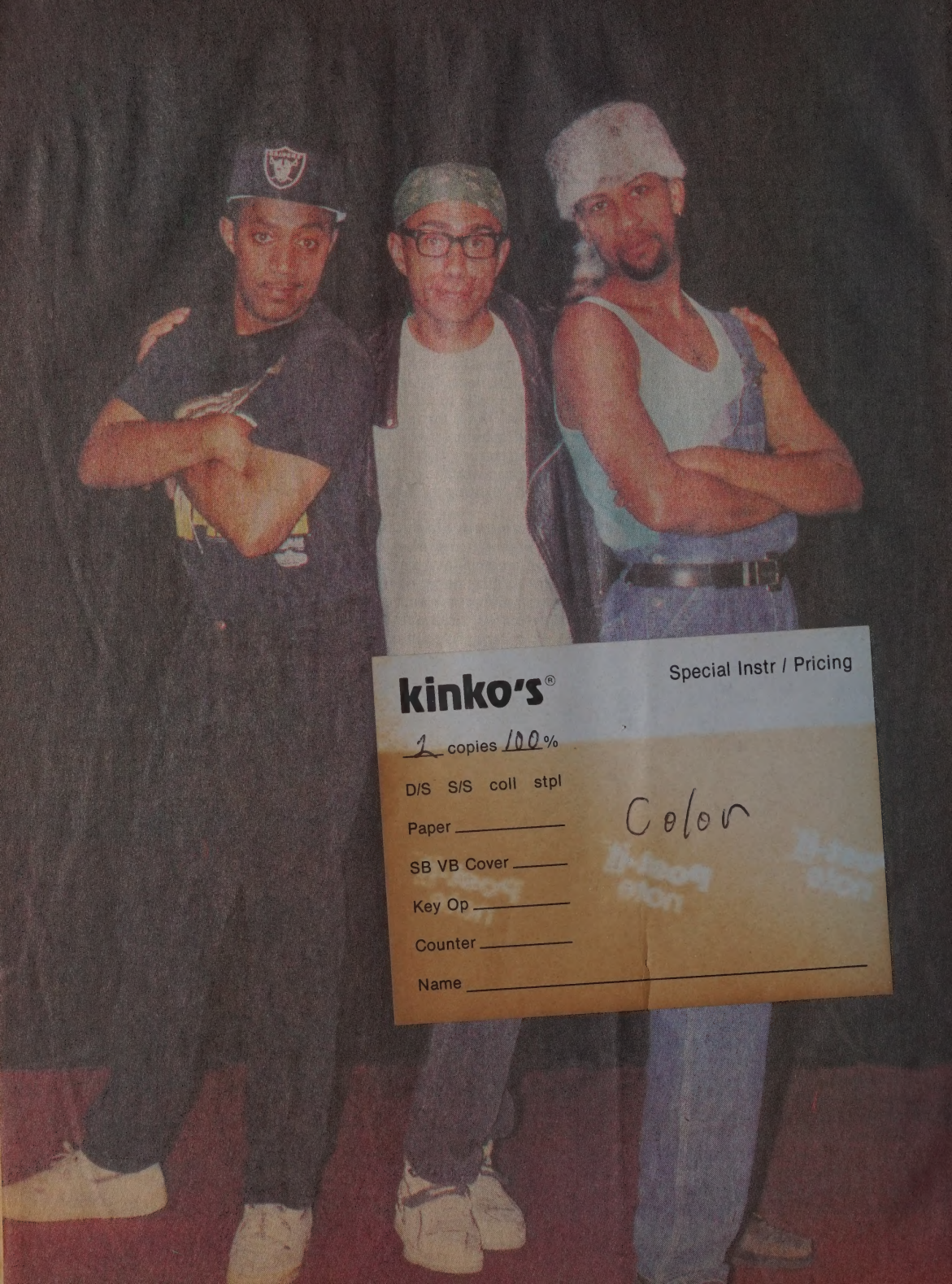
That meant putting himself back in touch with the child who had dressed in Mom's clothes until the adults no longer found it cute. "I had permission to claim them again. I had to say: I can swish and swirl my superlatives and that's alright. Personally, this has allowed me to play more and experiment with my personality and with my responses to things."

Branner has come a long way from Watts and what he admits was a sheltered childhood in which all of his brothers and sisters were much older. While he points out that South Central Los Angeles was not so violent then, Branner admits that he was eager to leave to pursue a career as a veterinarian. After taking four years of science classes, he allowed himself to become the artist he says he always was.

Eric Gupton, the third member of Pomo-Afro-Homos, was exposed at a very early age to dance and theater, attending the Alma Lewis School of Fine Arts in Boston. At the age of nine, he was already studying both African dance and classical ballet. Gupton also started acting at an early age, performing in high school and college in both experimental and traditional theater. After he came to the west coast in 1984 he began to take Haitian dance classes from Branner (whom he calls "one of the most respected specialists in the field in this area") and then became one of four principal dancers in Branner's Flesh and Spirit Performance Company. That was fortuitous. It was actually in dance that Gupton originally made a name for himself in the Bay Area. That is, before his performance as a gay



"I don't see that 'dyke' has anything to do with it."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Name

waiter in *Cafe Depresso*, netted him a nomination for Best Supporting Actor by the Bay Area Critics Circle.

His performance in *Fierce Love* is in some ways a culmination of all the work he has done. At tiny Antioch College (600 students), Gupton was a co-director of the Lesbian and Gay Center. He made it his mission while there to expose the campus to successful black lesbians and gay men. Among those who visited the campus were singer Blackberri, author and publisher Barbara Smith, and Pat Norman, executive director of the California AIDS Intervention Training. It was the high profile of a black gay man on the campus which lured him to that tiny Ohio campus. At a college fair in Boston, Gupton happened to see the picture of the student body president in an Antioch newspaper lying on their booth. Impressed by the impact that this man had on the campus in curriculum and in other areas, Gupton said "I knew that was the place for me."

He had come out to his family while still in high school. "My Mom said 'I don't understand this,' but she was supportive. My Dad said that it (my homosexuality) was a white man's disease and that I would get over it. I'm the oldest, and I've always been the outspoken one in my family. They had always taught me to speak out and to question. That was just another way of doing what I had been taught, to be honest. Of course, sometimes they were terrified by some of the things I said. They are much more accepting now but even then they were supportive. After all, many young men in my neighborhood had already been gunned down by that time. My parents were always more concerned with what the world would do to me."

Gupton enjoys travelling with the show, and looks forward to having the show seen by his family in Boston, also the home of director Freeman. The trip to the Alice B. Theatre Festival in Seattle was special for Gupton because even though there were fewer black gay men in that city than in their other venues, they did get to spend time with two black gay crew members who, after being tentative and nervous with the cast, were able to warm up to them after five performances there. "We went out to dinner with them after it was all over and 'had house' where they shared stories with us that they felt they couldn't share with anyone else. We were all very moved by their candor and honesty, and afterwards they thanked us profusely for giving them a vehicle and an opportunity to tell their stores. I knew then that this work is much more important and reaches the hearts and souls of people in ways I wouldn't dare imagine."

"That's why I love this show—not only because it speaks to the hearts and souls of so many men in this country, but also because it is becoming a part of people's lives *now*. Our stories are being told not only in the quiet kitchens of friends, but in a space where they can now be experienced by many. I love it when people come up to talk afterwards. Almost always they end up thanking us for telling their stories. What disturbs me though is that some white gay men think that this show encourages separatism. Even some of my friends have said this. I can understand that in some places that they feel left out. After all, this show requires a certain vocabulary and background knowledge. If they don't understand though, they should come afterwards and ask us about what we're doing. We really want audiences to ask questions and to talk with us about the show. This is an honest show and it needs to be dealt with honestly, but it is not surprising that some people have questions. There hasn't been anything like this in American theater."

The uniqueness of the show is what Gupton blames for the show's rejection by the Festival. But he is quick to point out the irony of that action. "It is a sad state of affairs when a fest that is supposed to embrace the scope and breadth of the African-American theater has rejected me. I *am* a bit upset about that but I've heard that some of the people who saw the show in Los Angeles are planning to go back to Winston-Salem and tell the planners how much this show deserved to be included in the festival. We've been doing the show primarily in experimental theaters, which is wonderful. We'd like to book this show in other places too, because we want as many people as possible to experience it."

Gupton's safe sex monologue has earned him more attention than he is willing to admit. He feels successful with it and comfortable because "it talks about sex, which is something I've never had any trouble talking about. I like men, the way they touch, feel, smell and act. I try to make that come across in the piece. But it goes beyond sex. I hope that comes across, too."

Even in that piece, he says, there is an element of collaboration, though there is a division of labor within the group. Branner handles the dance and movement aspects; Freeman much of the directorial responsibilities, writing, and booking, and Gupton the music.

"I don't know how much it shows but there's a lot of collaboration. This has truly been a collaboration. Even when one of us is out there on the stage alone, we're not really alone. We've all worked together to make this piece work."

Freeman has been surprised by the extent to which he has become more visible, even as a "spokesman" for the black gay community. "I couldn't have imagined this a year ago, or even six months ago," he says. Some of the attention, he suspects, is due to tokenism and to novelty (although some of it is due to genuine interest and respect for difference), but he is certainly making the most of his opportunities. He, too, is providing opportunities, in that many of the performances of *Fierce Love* have been benefits for gay or AIDS organizations, like the one for Seattle's People of Color AIDS Network, the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, the October benefit for Gay Men of African Descent in New York, or the recent benefit for *Out/Look* magazine.

As emcee for the opening of *Paris Is Burning* (a benefit for the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention and the San Francisco-based Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center), Freeman remarked, "It's been a black gay summer across the nation!"

For the *Out/Look* event, he delivered a speech on the topic "Who Is We?" where he mused about his emerging role as spokesperson with his characteristic humor. "The success of *Fierce Love* has put me in a public spotlight and I find myself becoming a 'professional homosexual.' Basically, I, like erotic video star Joe Simmons, now get paid for being black and gay and I think it is no coincidence that with the emerging visibility of a black gay community, there can be black gay performance artists as well as black gay porn. Well, you *could* call Joe a performance artist. He certainly performs. But does he write his own material?"

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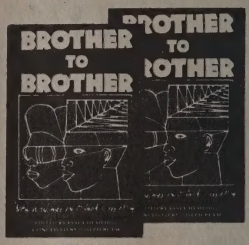

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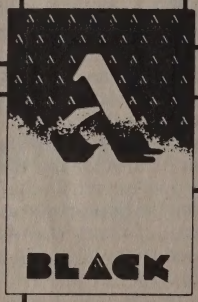

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"BECAUSE STRONG LEADERSHIP LEADS TO A STRONGER COMMUNITY"

Pressing Issues

A quick history and survey of current black lesbian and gay periodicals.

BY MARK HAILE

An ordinary newspaper is the daily chronicle of a community's life and especially of the extraordinary events therein. In the African-American community, the very existence of a newspaper, or any form of communication chronicling black life, is extraordinary, as much now as during the days of slavery.

It wasn't on a whim that white men made it illegal to teach slaves and women how to read in many parts of the United States. Their own struggle for independence had taught them the power of information.

Just as the first newspapers in colonial America were single sheet radical leaflets, quickly suppressed by the British, so too most black and most gay publications had humble beginnings.

Francis Williams was the first African-American to publish—a book of poems in Latin on April 17, 1758. Not long after, African-born Phyllis Wheatley, kidnapped at eight years of age and taken to Boston, began writing in English at age 13. Thus the literary resistance of African-Americans began. It would not be until March 16, 1827 (now celebrated as Black Press Day) that the first black newspaper, *Freedoms Journal*, would launch the regular black press.

The African-American press was upfront about its mission of liberation, and suffered mightily for it. On Nov. 10, 1898, a mob of whites murdered at least 300 blacks in Wilmington, N.C., while an unknown number of bodies floated out to sea. The lynch mobs burned down the offices of the *Wilmington Record*, and went in search of the editor, Alex Manly. The message to other black newspapers across the country was obvious.

Don't look for an account of the massacre in an official North Carolina history text book. No complete edition of the *Record* is known to exist today. Yet the attempt to muzzle black voices would not succeed. New publications, such as W.E.B. DuBois's *Crisis*, and later A. Phillip Randolph's *Opportunity*, sprang into being after the turn of the century and during World War I.

The same hostile message would be delivered a half century later to the fledgling attempts of lesbians and gay men to document the doings and concerns of their community. Early mimeographed newsletters also withstood bombings and witchhunts. After homemade newsletters had grown into hundreds of publications distributed to hundreds of thousands of readers, HIV would pose a new threat to the survival of the gay media.

Though many of today's black lesbian and gay newspapers and magazines are still in their fledgling years of publication, gay consciousness has spread as readership has enlarged. When viewed against the backdrop of the racism and homophobia which still exist in this country, the economic and social apartheid that the black lesbian and gay community still endures, there is added significance to the struggle of these institutions to survive along with their community. It adds a somber note to the recognition of those publications which exist now only as historical footnotes.

In all probability, the first magazine which might be called black and gay was *Fire!!* A single issue published in the summer of 1926 showcased the best and brightest of the Harlem Renaissance including works by Langston Hughes, Bruce Nugent, Countee Cullen, Zora Neale Hurston and others. Alas, it may have so shocked its intended audience that no subsequent issue dared emerge in print. True to its name, the bulk of the copies of the publication went up in flames in the basement where they were stored; the controversy long outlasted the magazine.

The next positive mention of gays in a mainstream black publication was not to come until 1948, when a March issue of *Ebony* would give mention to Josie's Deluxe Club, a popular Detroit show bar.

Almost a decade after the Stonewall Riots in 1969, the Third World Lesbian and Gay Conference of 1979 turned that year into the next one of significance for black lesbian and gay publishing. Participants returning home from the Washington, D.C. gathering were inspired to found a number of organizations and institutions for lesbian and gay people of color communities.

In August 1979, a four-page *Blacklight* was crafted by Sidney Brinkley, a journalist whose vision it was to create a newspaper especially for Washington, D.C.'s black lesbian and gay community. From a mere debut of 300 copies, Brinkley's dedication saw the paper increase to a run of 7,000 within two years. *Blacklight* was lauded for its commentary and features as much as its professional approach to the news. That it was the only lesbian and gay publication at the time able to interview now former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and mayor of Atlanta Andrew Young, testifies to the prominence *Blacklight* developed in the nation's capital.

Moja: Gay & Black was a unique New York newspaper that included information from gay publications from across the country. Co-editors Calvin Lowery and William Harris published beginning in 1979 a comprehensive compilation of news, history and features in communities of color, paying special attention to the difficulties of living constantly in an undefined zone between families of origin and the gay community. In addition to maintaining a strong feminist content, *Moja* challenged the racism in the gay community, the homophobia in communities of color and sexism and violence wherever they found it.

No organization would be more diverse—or need to be—in its communication with members than BWMT. Local chapters and the national umbrella association that coordinates inter-chapter communication and activities produce a variety of publications ranging from one-page flyers to sophisticated journals timed for their yearly national convention. The San Francisco/Bay Area chapter has published continuously since 1979, which makes it the longest running gay publication for blacks still in operation, keeping in mind that it is the product of a common effort of gay men of all colors. The New York City chapter, Men of All Colors Together, has a newsletter which has become the indispensable multicultural guide to the city. Chock full of everything and anything happening in New York, it reflects the most progressive political perspective and has heralded the trend toward multiculturalism. Perhaps their most ambitious literary project yet will be a special tenth anniversary anthology of writing by men *and* women of all colors, due out this fall.

From San Francisco, the *Quarterly*, founded in 1980, was a literate and challenging periodical devoted to promoting lesbian and gay third world interests. In 1983 its editor published *Colorful People and Places*, the most comprehensive listing of lesbians and gays of color ever undertaken. Both the *Quarterly* and *Colorful People* were written by Michael J. Smith, a white interracialist who founded BWMT in San Francisco in January 1980.

Onyx, the first black lesbian newsletter, was a bimonthly first published in 1982 by a black lesbian collective to promote social support and anti-racist activities from its Berkeley base. There was also a publication known at the time as the *Black Lesbian Newsletter* across the bay in San Francisco unaffiliated with *Onyx* or its predecessor of the same name.

The Diplomat began in Chicago in 1981, moving to Washington, D.C. to provide additional focus on other Third World lesbians and gay men.

Azalea, a newsletter published by the Azalea Collective, a lesbian of color group active in New York, came out in 1983.

Also in 1983, *The Other Black Woman*, began as a quarterly published by the Committee for the Visibility of the Other Black Woman: The Black Lesbian, in New York.

Jambo!, Swahili for "hello," was a publication by *Paz y Liberación* of Houston which briefly attempted to cover information on lesbian and gays in Africa and the Islamic nations. It was later absorbed into *PyL*.

A decade into the AIDS epidemic in America, there are now publications worldwide for researchers, caregivers, people with AIDS themselves and periodicals aimed at certain communities. Just as the gay community built a network of services without the assistance—and sometimes under the open harassment—of federal officials, the black community realized that specially tailored information and communication links between cities and organizations were imperative. Publications such as *Peer Point*, published by the Inner City AIDS Network of Washington, D.C. have done much to spread hard core information—and hope—to lesbian and gay African-Americans affected by or infected with HIV across the nation.

In another corner of gay publishing, that of erotica, the pioneers whose major focus were black men were Third World Studios of Chicago and Sierra Domino of San Francisco. *Force One* was published in San Francisco from 1980 until 1982 when it's owner Alan Boone died suddenly. The magazine featured photographs of black male nudes only. On the scene for but briefly, the *BFP Tribune* began as a company newsletter and expanded into a full-fledged magazine providing an in depth look at the world of black gay male erotica. Although it covered its subject thoroughly and quickly sold out in local stores, subscribers did not materialize quickly enough to sustain the publication.

While this list is current for the information received by BLK at the time of publication, there are some periodicals for which information could not be verified by press deadline. This includes information on the *Alternative*, a new black gay tabloid set for a September debut.

This compilation basically covers periodicals that are published by African-American lesbians and gay men, but a special mention must be made of a number of publishing efforts around the world. None could be more inspiring than the work of the Gays and Lesbians of the Witwatersrand, whose *GLOW Newsletter* is the first serving brothers and sisters on the African continent. Operating largely with foreign assistance, these men and women are communicating to the black lesbian and gay community of South Africa amid circumstances that most Americans would find difficult to imagine. Their experiences and determination are both humbling and inspiring.

Also exciting is England's *Black Lesbian and Gay Centre Project Newsletter*, filling 12 pages with information of what is happening across England in lesbian and gay communities of color. An interesting note: In Great Britain, the term black is used to refer to anyone of African, Asian, Latin American or Pacific Islander heritage

and all other indigenous peoples outside of Europe. The sense of interconnectedness is evident through the newsletter, which incorporates local happenings with world-wide news events.

Closer to home, *Caribbean Heat* magazine gives Puerto Rico a source for news, information on HIV services and social events in a unique bilingual format. *Heat* has appeared at a critical time for the lesbian and gay community, as Puerto Rico is experiencing one of the highest rates of HIV infection in the country, alongside the proliferation of new organizations, from Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays to ACT-UP.

Other groups outside the continental U.S. which deserve acknowledgement are Grupo Gay da Bahia, (founded in 1980 in Brazil's "Blackest" State) the first gay Brazilian group to receive official government recognition in 1983, affiliated with BWMT and NCBLG. GGB publishes a newsletter regularly; and the *Jamaica Gaily News*, founded in 1977 by the Gay Freedom Movement, which lasted longer than any other Caribbean lesbian and gay group before withering away last year.

Here are, then, the potpourri of publications which mirror the many facets of black lesbian and gay life in America, while consolidating a sense of community through dissemination of the information, humor, encouragement, collected wisdom, criticism and debate inspired by our existence.

Aché

Aché: A Journal for Black Lesbians, began as a bimonthly magazine in the East Bay, that now has subscribers across the country and around the world. Since February of 1989, says publisher Lisbet, Aché has been a journal explaining black lesbian culture through interviews, fiction, poetry/prose, artwork, news and other writings. Under the direction of editor DeeAnne Davis, Aché has become a leading journal, recording the experiences of the black lesbian in her own voice.

Aché: A Journal for Black Lesbians, Box 6071, Albany, CA 94706, 415-849-2819. *Publisher:* Lisbet. *Editor:* DeeAnne Davis. *Inception:* February 1989. *Frequency:* Bimonthly. *Primary distribution area:* National and International. *Circulation:* 600, paid. *Single issue:* $2. *Subscription:* $10-25 year. *Page size:* 8½x11. *Display ads:* No. *Classified ads:* Yes.

AllBlack

AllBlack first appeared on the shelves in January of this year, with erotic fiction and photographs depicting black gay men, but appealing to all gay men. Under the editorship of Pat Califia, AllBlack joins the Advocate family of publications, hopefully to be published at least once yearly if sales warrant.

All Black, Box 4371, Los Angeles, CA 90078, 213-871-1225. *Fax:* 213-467-6805. *Publisher:* Niles Merton. *Editor-in-Chief:* Richard Rouilard. *Editor:* Pat Califia. *Inception:* January 1991. *Frequency:* Annual. *Primary distribution area:* National. *Circulation:* 50,000, paid. *Single issue:* $5.95. *Page size:* 8x10⅞. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* No.

Associates Newsletter

The Associates Newsletter is the offficial organ of the Associates, a black gay men's organization in Miami, but the eight-page quarterly includes news and information of the general black gay community in South Florida.

Associates, Box 472382, Miami, FL 33247-2382. *Publisher:* Associates. *Editor:* Rice Blaque. *Inception:* 1990. *Frequency:* Quarterly. *Primary distribution area:* South Florida. *Circulation:* 300, free. *Subscription:* Yes. *Page size:* 8½x11. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* Yes.

B&G

B&G Magazine burst on to the New York scene in February 1990. Under the editorship of Joseph Cornell, B&G is bringing national news and cultural information to New York's African-American community, and spreading the word on New York's African-American gay men across the country. In a city known for its racism, even within the lesbian and gay community, black New Yorkers have had in B&G a magazine that is of their community when neither black nor gay publications can sometimes be counted on. Of late, B&G has had publishing difficulties.

B&G Magazine, Box 1511, New York, NY 10276, 212-629-1887, 800-688-5401. *Publisher:* Joseph Cornell. *Editor:* Joseph Cornell. *Inception:* February 1990. *Frequency:* Monthly, except combined July/August. *Primary distribution area:* East Coast. *Circulation:* 14,500, free. *Single issue:* $2. *Subscription:* $18 year. *Page size:* 8¼x10¾. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* Yes.

BGM

BGM is a literary journal for black gay men. Published by the Black Light Press under the editorship of Sidney Brinkley periodically since 1986, it has contained both fiction and non-fiction, along with photography, art, poetry, prose, interviews and essays. Nationally distributed by Inland Book Company of New Haven, Conn. BGM accepts submissions from writers and artists from across the country, sometimes presenting a theme for the issue.

BGM, Box 9391, Washington, D.C. 20005. *Publisher:* Blacklight Press. *Editor:* Sidney Brinkley. *Inception:* 1986. *Frequency:* Periodically. *Primary distribution area:* National. *Single issue:* $4.95. *Subscription:* None. Page size: 7x10. *Display ads:* No. *Classified ads:* Soon.

Black Lace

Black Lace is the new quarterly of the BLK family which will start right where the name implies, crossing over the threshold of the politically correct to another, more intimate kind of sisterhood. This will be the erotica of, by and for black women that could not be had until now. "Let's celebrate," says editor Alycee J. Lane. "Let us share our fantasies frankly, honestly even brutally...to hell with what we've taught ourselves to think. Pledge allegiance to your entire black woman selves.."

Black Lace, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90038-0912, 213-410-0808, *Fax:* 213-410-9250. *Editor:* Alycee J. Lane. *Inception:* Spring 1991. *Frequency:* Quarterly. *Primary distribution area:* National. *Circulation:* 2,000. *Single issue:* $6. *Subscription:* $20 year, $36 two years. Outside U.S. add $8 year. *Page size:* 8¼x10⅞. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* Yes.

Black/Out

Summer of 1986 saw the emergence of Black/Out, the magazine of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays. First published under the editorship of Joseph Beam, later issues were guided by Angela Bowen and Colin Robinson, among others. As the glossy-cover journal of the national

lesbian and gay organization based in Washington, D.C., Black/Out quickly established itself as a credible and attractive magazine. Although it has not been published on a regular basis.

Black/Out. *Inception:* Summer 1986. *Frequency:* Occasionally. *Primary distribution area:* United States. *Single issue:* $6. *Subscription:* $10 year. *Page size:* 8½x11. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* No.

BLK

BLK, the national black lesbian and gay newsmagazine, now has a circulation of 37,000 distributed free to cities across the United States and overseas as well. BLK maintains a vigilant watch for signs of homophobia or racism in the media, a column on personalities, all the latest information on HIV pertaining to African-Americans. Interviews with the role models and movers and shakers of the black lesbian and gay community appear in almost every issue.

BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912, 213-410-0808. *Fax:* 213-410-9250. *Publisher:* Alan Bell. *Editor:* Alan Bell. *Inception:* December 1988. *Frequency:* Monthly. *Primary distribution area:* United States. *Circulation:* 37,000, free. *Single issue:* $2. *Subscription:* $18 year, $30 two years, outside U.S. add $11 year. *Page size:* 8¼x10⅞. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* Yes.

G.B.F.

G.B.F., or Gay Black Female, is published out of Hollywood by Stephanie Wynne with editor Dina Smith. Begun in August of 1990, becoming bimonthly in January 1991. Distributed throughout L.A. and San Francisco-Oakland Bay Area clubs, the black lesbian publication features city to city interaction, interviews, an advice column and personal ads with a growing distribution.

G.B.F., 1680 N. Vine St. #1211, Los Angeles, CA 90028, Hollywood, CA 90028, 213-467-7952. *Publisher:* Stephanie Wynne. *Editor:* Dina Smith. *Inception:* August 1990. *Frequency:* Bimonthly. *Primary distribution area:* Los Angeles. *Circulation:* 5,000, free. *Subscription:* None. *Page size:* 5½x8½. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* Yes.

Habari

Habari is a bimonthly newsletter distributed in the San Diego area. Published by the Lesbians and Gays of African Descent United (LAGADU), it is the primary source of information for African-American activities and other information of interest in the region. Published since September 1989, Habari hopes to distribute the free newsletter across San Diego, by more than doubling their circulation, in the year to come.

Habari, Box 620448, San Diego, CA 92162, 619-294-6515. *Publisher:* Lesbians and Gays of African Descent United. *Editor:* Newsletter Committee. *Inception:* September 1989. *Frequency:* Bimonthly. *Primary distribution area:* San Diego. *Circulation:* 200, free. *Subscription:* None. *Page size:* 8½x11. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* Yes.

Kuumba

Kuumba is the newest literary magazine for lesbians and gay African-Americans, making its debut with the spring 1991 issue. The quarterly features strictly black lesbian and gay poetry from across the country and from Africa as well. It's name comes from one of the seven principles of Kwanzaa, meaning "creativity."

Kuumba, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912, 213-410-0808. *Fax:* 213-410-9250. *Publisher:* Alan Bell. *Editors:* Ayofemi Stowe Folayan and Mark Haile. *Inception:* Spring 1991. *Frequency:* Quarterly. *Primary distribution area:* National. *Circulation:* 500. *Single issue:* $4.50. *Subscription:* $15 year, $28 two years, outside U.S. add $8 year. *Page size:* 8¼x10⅞. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* No.

Literary Xpress

Literary Xpress is a quarterly providing interviews, essays, artwork, articles and photographs, from poetry and the history of literature by or about women of color, with information on health, literary contests and encouragement for women in all endeavors. The Literary Exchange was started in 1985 as a not-for-profit corporation "to heighten the visibility of women of color in literature, thereby, improving her status in society." Subscribers to the "paperzine" are automatically associate members, entitled to special benefits.

Literary Xpress, Box 438583, Chicago, IL 60643. *Publisher:* Literary Exchange. *Editor-in-Chief:* Yaounde Olu. *Inception:* Summer 1987. *Frequency:* Quarterly. *Primary distribution area:* Chicago. *Subscription:* $10 year. *Page size:* 8½x11. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* No.

Party Goer

Party Goer, published monthly by Ernest Nolen, gives Chicago area residents and members of Nightlife, (a local organization) information of social activities and provides a directory to assist those just coming out.

The Party Goer, 843 W. Van Buren #106, Chicago, IL 60607, 312-642-6050. *Publisher:* Nightlife. *Editor:* Ernest Nolen. *Inception:* October 1990. *Frequency:* Monthly. *Primary distribution area:* Chicago. *Circulation:* 400, free. *Page size:* 8½x11. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* No.

Planet Roc

Planet Roc, edited by Simone Bouyer, has been written by and for Chicago area artists since January of 1989. Published by Wholesome Roc Gallery, Plant Roc contains not just gallery news, but information on local art shows, music events, film reviews, poetry, and even recipes. Planet Roc is the indispensable community link to art events ranging in subject matter from Kwanzaa to Women with AIDS.

Planet Roc, 1444 N. Greenview, Chicago, IL 60622, 312-252-1905. *Publisher:* Wholesome Roc Gallery. *Editor:* Simone Bouyer. *Inception:* January 1989. *Frequency:* Monthly. *Primary distribution area:* Chicago. *Circulation:* 1000, free. *Subscription:* $5 year. *Page size:* 7x8½. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* Yes.

Pyramid Periodical

Pyramid Periodical was started by Roy Gonsalves in 1986, providing with each issue an exciting collection of prose and poetry, plays, short stories, commentary, reviews and news relative to the lives of lesbians and gay men of color. Now being issued by Kafra Publishing Co., editor Rodney G. Dildy continues to produce the publication free of advertising. Pyramid has, throughout it's several editions, grown from a New York-based, all male publication to a lively multicultural, all-inclusive quality journal which incorporates a dizzying number of varieties of the English language all known to black lesbians and gay men.

Pyramid Periodical, Box 1111, New York, NY 10013-1111, 212-569-1518,

Fax: None. *Publisher:* Kafra Publishing Co., Inc. *Editor:* Rodney C. Diloy. *Inception:* 1986. *Frequency:* Quarterly. *Primary distribution areas:* U.S. and Canada. *Circulation:* 500, paid. *Single issue:* $5. *Subscription:* $16 year. *Page size:* 5½x8½. *Display ads:* No. *Classified ads:* No.

Quarterly Interchange

Quarterly Interchange publishes gay male fiction, non-fiction, poetry, politics, interviews and features providing a forum for adult men interested in interracial and cross-cultural relationships with other men. QI has been published since January 1988, nationwide, edited and published by Thom Bean who was until recently a member of the Out/Look board of directors.

Quarterly Interchange, Box 42502, San Francisco, CA 94101, 415-641-5706. *Fax:* 415-864-0351. *Publisher:* Thom Bean. *Editor:* Thom Bean. *Inception:* January 1988. *Frequency:* Quarterly. *Primary distribution area:* United States. *Single issue:* $10. *Subscription:* $20 year, outside U.S. add $4 year. Page *size:* 8½x11. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* Yes.

Rainbow Connections

Jacquie Bishop and Lidell Jackson are editors of Rainbow Connections, a new monthly lesbian and gay multicultural newsletter aimed at people of color in the New York Metropolitan area. Rainbow Connections will provide an opportunity for organizations and agencies in New York's incredibly diverse communities to get the word out on activities and events. In the words of Jacquie Bishop, "Sometimes we'll rant, sometimes we'll rave, sometimes we'll dish."

Rainbow Connections, 208 N. 13th St., New York, NY 10011, 212-827-6350, *Fax:* 212-736-7318. *Publisher:* Jacquie Bishop. *Editors:* Jacquie Bishop and Lidell Jackson. *Inception:* November 1990. *Frequency:* Monthly. *Primary distribution area:* New York metropolitan area. *Circulation:* 2,000, free. *Subscription:* $15 year. *Page size:* 8½x11. *Display ads:* No. *Classified ads:* No.

Real Read

The Real Read appeared in April 1989, providing a voice for lesbian and gay African-American prose, poetry and Afrocentric politics. Under the stewardship of co-editors Cleo Manago and the late Ron Grayson, whose untimely illness and subsequent death postponed the second issue, the Real Read is passionate and direct. The second issue is scheduled for late summer of 1991. Affiliated with the Black Men's Xchange and the Black Women's Xchange, the editors describe the Real Read as an "informational and non-conformist document designed to empower, apprise and celebrate the community with a multi-people, Afrocentrically-cultivated view of the nation and the world."

The Real Read, Box 8216, Inglewood, CA 90308, 213-281-7742. *Fax:* Call first. *Publisher:* Real Read Collective. *Editors:* Arthur Crump, Joe Hawkins, Cleo Manago, Rajer Southall and Sipho Nkosi. *Inception:* April 1989. *Frequency:* Bimonthly. *Primary distribution area:* Western U.S. *Single issue:* Free. *Subscription:* $24 year. *Page size:* 8x10. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* Yes.

South Bay Times

South Bay Times did not respond to our questionnaire. The following information, which was taken from the newspaper's August 1990 issue, is incomplete and may not be current.

Although not a black lesbian or black gay publication, the South Bay Times is included here because one of its co-owners, Whayne Herriford, is black. The South Bay Times of San Jose, now California's third largest city according to the 1990 census, provides a thorough community services directory and business directory covering the sprawling, three-county region, with a focus on the local news often left out of the San Francisco gay papers.

South Bay Times, 265 Meridian Ave. #6, San Jose, CA 95126, 408-496-8271. *Publishers:* Whayne Herriford and Richard Kendall. *Frequency:* Monthly. *Primary distribution area:* Northern California. *Page size:* 8½x11. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* No.

Thing

The phenomenon of underground magazines directed to the young and ultra-hip was for the most part a white world until Thing made its debut in November of 1989. Published out of Chicago by Robert Ford, it appears, in his words, "capriciously," with no regular schedule. It's guaranteed to be packed—when you can find it—with plenty of info on the underground arts scene, making visible the black presence among the shapers of the art world in the 21st Century. It's filled with politics, entertainment, art news, camp and commentary from a fresh new perspective, distributed in major cities across the country with a circulation of about 2,000.

Thing, 2151 W. Division, Chicago, IL 60622-3056, 312-276-0398. *Publisher:* Robert Ford. *Editors:* Robert Ford, Trent Adkins, Delon Strode, Lawrence Warren, Stephen Freshwater. *Inception:* November 1989. *Frequency:* Capriciously published. *Primary distribution area:* Chicago and bookstores in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Hollywood, Philadelphia, Washington, and Denver. *Circulation:* 2,000, paid. *Single issue:* $3. *Subscription:* $7 for three issues. *Page size:* 8x10¾. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* No.

Wimmin

Wimmin, the spinoff of B&G, does for New York's black lesbians what B&G does for men. Initiated with a circulation of 3,000, Wimmin will bring news of national importance to black lesbians along the Eastern seaboard, including poetry and information on arts, business and health. Editor Yvette Anderson in the opening editorial said, "We are different from any man I know and any straight woman in the world. We deserve our own title—Wimmin. This is who we are and will always be. This is our chance to hear each other's joy and feel each other's pain. This is the time to speak out and to listen; to differ and to let each other be." Of late, Wimmin has had publishing difficulties.

Wimmin, Box 1511, New York, NY 10276, 212-714-7747, 800-688-5401. *Associate Publisher and Editor-in-Chief:* Yvette Anderson. *Managing Editor:* Constance Wood. *Inception:* January 1991. *Frequency:* Monthly. *Primary distribution area:* East Coast. *Circulation:* 3,000, *free. Subscription:* $18 year, $30 two years, outside U.S. add $15 year. *Page size:* 8¼x10¾. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* Yes.

Note: The foregoing information was accurate to the best of our knowledge at press time. Please bring any inaccuracies or additions to our attention for a future update.

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Blacks Ponder Meaning of Dahmer

BY MARK HAILE,
BLK ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MILWAUKEE—There are two stories happening in Milwaukee. One is the gruesome discovery of the murders of mostly young, black men by a handsome, blond gay man who easily lured victims to his home. The other story is of the lurid reporting that is sweeping through the media worldwide, the brash insensitivity of the police and the inflammatory relationship between the races and straights and gays in a city not known for its tolerance.

The murders were more than sickening: they have spanned pages of sensational coverage, and a wave of hate and fear against gays in particular in the Milwaukee area.

Jeffrey L. Dahmer, 31, was charged with first degree intentional homicide in the first four murder counts to come out of the confessions given to Milwaukee police on July 22.

Dahmer, described as both racist and homophobic, confessed to murders as far back as 1978, drugging then strangling his victims before dismembering their bodies. Police in California, Illinois, Ohio, Indiana and Wisconsin are investigating whether Dahmer may be linked to unsolved murders and disappearances in the areas, above the 17 to which he has already confessed.

Neighbors had long complained of the odors coming from Dahmer's apartment, which he explained away as a failed refrigerator. Most of the men went there willingly with him, attracted by his good looks and quiet demeanor or promises of payment for photographing them. At least one man was invited over just for a "neighborly" beer.

Witnesses remember seeing Dahmer at bars in Chicago and Milwaukee, and gay pride celebrations in both cities. Yet he was far from happy about being gay, as witnesses have brought out, describing him as "a loner, distant and moody." The *Wisconsin Light* recounted how Dahmer was thrown out of the Milwaukee Club Baths in 1987 for drugging people in his private room, sending one man to the hospital for over a week. Said Bradley Babush who worked at the now defunct bathhouse, "the police talked to Dahmer and our staff, but none of the victims wanted to press charges."

Milwaukee Chief of Police Phillip Arreola lambasted the probation department for releasing Dahmer after serving ten months of a one to eight year sentence in 1989 for sexual assault on a teenager, then failing to supervise him while on probation. Arreola called it "a damning indictment" of the judicial system, but it was an eye opener into the sexist, racist homophobia of the police department even more so.

It was negligence by Milwaukee police that ultimately allowed Dahmer to continue his murder spree, although he was almost uncovered on May 27 of this year, when one victim managed to escape.

Two women called 911 while they protected the 14-year-old Konerak Sinthasomphone. They found him running down an alley, incoherent, naked, bleeding and beaten. Dahmer told officers who arrived on the scene that the youth was 19, merely drunk, and ran away after a lovers spat. Sinthasomphone was the brother of the youth that Dahmer had been arrested for assaulting two years earlier.

The police chose to believe the story of the white male over the two black women, and without talking to or examining the drugged youth closely, remanded him to Dahmer's custody. He was never seen alive again. Police never checked to see that Dahmer was on probation for sexual assault. They never ran a 'make' on him; they didn't even make a connection when the youth's family made a missing person's report.

The two women had even called repeatedly to officials requesting that some sort of follow-up be made. The transcripts of the women's frantic emergency call, and the offhand manner in which the officers jokingly dismissed the incidents, repleat with disparaging remarks, has since resulted in a controversy of its own, with three officers suspended over the matter for their breach of procedures pending an investigation. Dahmer went on killing—at least four more victims between that night and his arrest almost two months later.

Finally, one man did escape. Tracy Edwards, 32, found running down the street with handcuffs on, led police back to Dahmer's apartment where at least 11 victims were killed. Dahmer's confession led to the identification of all the victims whose mutilated body parts they found throughout the apartment, and six other victims whose remains were scattered about the countryside.

Prior to the grisly discovery, Milwaukee was already in the middle of a rise of gay bashing in the city, as is the case nationwide. A survey of customers conducted by the La Cage bar owner George Prentice found some 90 percent felt unsafe on the street outside local bars while they felt 100 percent safe once inside the club. No new polling has been undertaken to see how the Dahmer case may have changed that feeling, but security patrols, posters, and information about personal safety were being talked about as seriously as safe sex information once was.

The relationship between Milwaukee police and the gay community had long been dismal. Instead of assisting the gay community during the recent wave of bashings, the police raided a local Southside bar, arresting two dancers. Ironically, the men were performing during a benefit to raise funds for the victims of the bashing spree.

The heterosexual press has not been able to contain itself in regard to the sensationalist aspects of the story. A June 27 murder in Raymond, Wisc. prosecuted by Racine County District Attorney Lennie Webber was the result of what she called "homosexual overkill," where far more injuries were inflicted than necessary to cause death.

The phrase was picked up by the media and used in conjunction with the Dahmer case by the Milwaukee Chief of Police, even as activists denounced the term. Again and again, the coroners, prosecutors, police and news media have been told again that such references are illogical and unethical, and create distorted images in the eyes of the public of gays as murderers.

Local media continued to play up the murders as a "logical result of homosexual behavior," as Milwaukee lesbian journalist Jamakaya heard from Mark Belling of WISN Talk Radio.

'Tongues Untied' Goes National, but 17 Top PBS Stations Refuse to Air It

BY MARK HAILE,
BLK ASSOCIATE EDITOR

NEW YORK—*Tongues Untied*, the award-winning film documentary on gay black men, televised on the public television documentary series *P.O.V.* in July, came under attack for its graphic material and because its producer received a $5,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The hour-long film was on the PBS schedule for July 16 at 10 p.m. Public stations are not required to broadcast the programs provided by PBS, and they can change the scheduling of programs to best serve their own communities.

Seventeen stations in the top 50 markets chose in advance not to show it at all, and at least one station cancelled at the last minute.

Many stations, concerned about the film's material, chose not to show the film during prime time. Eleven stations delayed the broadcast until 11 p.m. or later. The two public stations in Washington, WETA and WHMM, aired it on July 19 at 11 p.m. Fears that donors to the stations would find the film offensive was the most commonly cited reason off the record for shelving the broadcast.

The producer, Marlon Riggs, 34 years old, who is himself gay and black and HIV positive, calls his film an affirmation of gay black life. He has called it an expression of "the vitality and significance of a community that traditionally has been silenced and ignored."

Riggs works in San Francisco and lectures at the University of California at Berkeley.

Tongues Untied is an amalgam of rap music, street poetry, documentary film and dance. It has scenes of partial nudity and of men kissing and is replete with profanity and racial and homosexual slurs. It is not, actually, sexually explicit.

Appearing on BET, prior to the broadcast, Riggs said, "What I wanted to sound off about was the theory, the torment, the rage, the triumphs and the passions, the struggles of black gay men to define their own identities on their own terms."

The strongest attack on the film has come from Rev. Donald E. Wildmon, the president of the American Family Association, a conservative media watchdog group based in Tupelo, Miss.

Instead of his usual practice of seeking to ban material he finds objectionable, Wildmon said he hoped *Tongues Untied* would be widely released. He said he had not seen the film but assumed most people would find it offensive.

"This is the first time millions of Americans will have an opportunity to see the kinds of things their tax money is being spent on," said Wildmon. "This is the first time there is no third party telling them what is going on; they can see for themselves."

"Most of the people who run public broadcasting institutions—public televisions stations in this country are white male heterosexuals," commented Riggs on BET, "and when you present a work that challenges their authority, that challenges their privilege, they get upset—and not only do they get upset, they want to ban the work, which they're doing."

Tongues Untied is no newcomer to television, shown last year by public television stations in San Francisco, New York and Los Angeles. None of these stations reported any unfavorable viewer reaction.

This time around, the film is being shown as part of *P.O.V.* (for "point of view"), an award-winning series of independently produced nonfiction films.

The *P.O.V.* series received $250,000 of its $1.1 million budget this year from the National Endowment for the Arts. In addition to his regional endowment grant, Riggs received $3,000 from the Film Arts Foundation. Most of the film's $40,000 cost came from donated equipment and volunteer help.

The film was voted best documentary at the Berlin International Film Festival, best independent/experimental work by the Los Angeles Film Critics and best video at the New York documentary Film Festival, among other awards.

The film has been commissioned for public television broadcasts in England, Spain, Australia and Sweden. It has been screened at film festivals around the world, including Edinburgh, Scotland; Melbourne, Australia; Cophenhagen, Denmark; Dublin, Ireland; and Riga, Latvia.

Riggs had previously won an Emmy for *Ethnic Notions*, a film about black stereotypes, shown on PBS in 1989.

Among the top markets that appeared on what *Los Angeles Times* critic Howard Rosenberg referred to as "The Wimp List," were WEDU, Tampa, Fla.; KCPT, Kansas City, Mo.; WMVS, Milwaukee, Wis.; Oklahoma Educational TV; Iowa Public Television; WTVS, Detroit, Mich.; Channel 8, Nashville, Tenn.; WTVI, Charlotte, N.C.; ETV, Columbia, S.C.; WHRO, Norfolk, Va.; WVIA, Pittson, Pa.; WITF, Harrisburg, Pa.; KOAP, Portland, Ore.; WFYI, Indianapolis, Ind.; KETV, Lesington, Ky.; KUON, Lincoln, Neb.; Alabama Public TV; WOSU, Columbus, Ohio; WMEB, Bangor, Me.; WCBB, Lewiston, Me.; WMAA, Jackson, Miss.; and KUHT, Houston, Tex.

Cincinnati, the center of the controversy last year over the public display of the photographs of Robert Mapplethorpe, viewed *Tongues Untied* there during prime time on WCET.

"We chose to air the *P.O.V.* series," said Jack Dominic, a senior vice president of the station, "and we chose to run it in prime time. We're not going to put this one show on at a different hour. That would be a cop-out."

"I don't think small children or even young teen-agers should watch the program," he said. "It's not the kind of show I'd sit down and watch myself. But that's why people have 'on' and 'off' buttons. Choosing what people should watch—that's not the business we're in."

In Detroit, WTVS Channel 56 was going to delay the broadcast until 11:30 p.m., then decided not to air the documentary altogether. The programming manager was quoted as saying, "...it's definitely not family

viewing."

The National Association of Black and White Men Together, meeting in Detroit, organized a protest in reaction to the film stance taken by the station, which lead to WTVS Channel 56 President Robert Larson and Vice President of Communications Paula Sulinski agreeing to meet with gay activists.

Despite the willingness of the majority of the staff at the Detroit station to broadcast the film, Larson decided the film's depictions and descriptions of sexual activity made it "an issue of suitability...to allow that language to go on the air doesn't do our station credit."

Representatives from the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays (NCBLG), the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention of the NABWMT and the NABWMT national co-chairs meeting with Larson and Sulinski resulted in an agreement that programming concerning black gay issues is appropriate for the station.

Larson remained unmoved about showing *Tongues Untied* in July, but agreed to work with community representatives "to find suitable programming." He proposed the possibility of hosting a focus group that would reflect the WTVS viewing audience to view the video.

The conference participants organized a sizeable picket line at WTVS studios on June 28, bringing attention to the lack of visibility of gay people of color in broadcast media in general, and the struggle to air *Tongues Untied* in particular.

In Atlanta, the showing became the second highest rated program in local public broadcasting history, after the PBS series on the Civil War.

The Georgia media had generated a great deal of publicity about the program as it is Riggs's home state. Atlanta activist Maurice Franklin told BLK that "folks were shocked by *Tongues Untied*," but impressions made by the program ran deep, with the community making an all out "phone assault" to call the stations airing the broadcast to reaffirm their support.

Between 800 and 1000 calls had poured into Georgia Public Television and Atlanta Public Television before and after the showing. The calls at last report were running about 50/50 for and against the program.

In Milwaukee, however, WMVS/WMVT channels 10/36 decided that Wisconsin just wasn't ready to admit that black gay men exist. Acting general manager Bryce Combs asked that an edited version of the video be provided with "offensive" language and scenes be deleted. While there is no actual frontal nudity or sex in the video, some of the descriptions of anal sex were "just too graphic" for "community standards."

The descriptions of rampant prejudice, racist and homophobic violence, marginalization and dehumanizing of black gay men were not acknowledged as offensive, although Combs agreed that "lifestyle messages need to be told."

The Milwaukee Gay/Lesbian Cable Network blasted the decision as "racist, homophobic censorship," and are negotiating to bring the video to public access cable.

Riggs dismissed the criticisms offered by stations as to why they could not show the video, telling BLK, "these people have no notion of what black gay men are about or feel."

"For me, none of this is discouraging, as some of our issues are finally on the agenda...They have to acknowledge our experience," Riggs commented to BLK. He was especially appreciative of the assistance of many non-gay, non-black groups who fought to keep *Tongues Untied* on the air. "It's very empowering for me to see many organizations, *ad hoc* groups, institutions, coming in to support the work," he said.

In Houston, the Southwest Alternative Media Project, DiverseWorks Artspace and the Community Artists' Collective have negotiated with the Museum of Fine Arts to present the video on Thursday, Aug. 1 at 7:30 p.m. for free.

In Tampa, an unprecedented meeting of WEDU's community advisory board vetoed the video after seeing only the first 20 minutes.

"It is a real sensitive film," said spokesperson Christina Beyer for corporate communications, "and people who saw it at the station hope that its audience will find it. This is not New York, and it makes no sense to pretend it is something else. We factored the community standards and felt this film was not acceptable."

"The question such critics never ask," retorted Riggs, "because the answers are profoundly revealing, is: *whose* community and *whose* standards?"

Sixty percent of all the calls received at WMFE, Orlando, Fla., were against showing the film, but the board of trustees stood behind station manager Ben Hardcastle, who said, "we have a commitment to air controversial material."

The controversy flaired in the arts and entertainment section of newspapers across the country until it ended up in the editorial pages as well.

Conservative columnist James J. Kilpatrick asked, "Why does the NEA persist in this kind of grossly offensive 'art.' There is no way *Tongues Untied* could qualify as a production with 'substantial artistic and cultural significance'."

Atlanta Constitution critic Dick Williams told Georgia to "listen up ...You must not leave your television or VCR to vomit," encouraging viewers watch what "their" taxpayers dollars had presented, assuming they would agree with him that the documentary was "without a doubt, the most explicit, profane program ever broadcast by a television network."

Williams said "the program belongs in a homosexual bath house and Mr. Riggs has every right to show it there. He has no right or legitimate claim to 'our' tax dollars or 'our' networks."

Williams's own paper, however, in its editorial noted that in light of the controversy, "all the more reason to applaud Atlanta's two public stations, WPBA and WGTV, for having the courage to air it. For *Tongues Untied* is television of high quality.

"This does not deny anyone the right to be shocked or offended by the film. But the outcry against it does bear examination. What seems to upset people like the Rev. Donald Wildmon is less the dirty words and homoerotic images than the fact that public funds have been expended to offer a positive portrayal of a lifestyle they regard as an abomination...For those with eyes to see and ears to hear, it is a work of high moral purpose."

Riggs noted that, "minorities might be granted the right to speak and be heard, but only if we abide by the 'master codes' of courteous speech, proper subject matter, conventional aesthetics and 'mainstream' appeal. Disobey this often unwritten rule and you risk banishment into cultural obli-

vion."

Riggs referred to a work of James Baldwin that described the "aim of white Americans was to refashion the Negro face after their own, and failing that, to make the black face 'blank'."

Riggs continued, "straight America, black as well as white, now demands much of the same of homosexual men and women: to win majority acceptance, we are asked to represent ourselves in ways which, in effect, reaffirm the majority's self-image of privilege. The alternative is erasure."

While many of those defending the broadcast admitted they had trouble with the content, a few suggested that the film might "backfire" against the black gay community. Courtland Milloy, writing in the *Washington Post*, expressed his fear that, "by ignoring the heterosexual audience, the film misses a chance to contribute to changing the hostile climate that keeps black homosexuals in their closets. Achieving that goal should have been a priority." He offered that, "Riggs's film would have been more useful if he had dealt more fully with community attitudes that force black gay men to perpetrate such frauds." Milloy summed up his feelings on the film and Riggs's HIV status by stating, "by the time Riggs is ready to make a film that might help viewers like me better understand gay guys like himself, it could be too late."

Veteran critic Rosenberg had a much firmer grasp on the purpose of the video, and the controversy surrounding its airing, saying, "It is poetic, lyrical, poignant, funny, rapping, street-talking raw art that may, however, nourish homophobia even as it seeks to drive a spike through its heart. That remains to be seen."

On the furor over content, Rosenberg said, "but even *The Love Boat* had more sex and, on any given day, your favorite daytime soap opera is infinitely more sizzling.

"The difference is that the loving, gentle contact here is between men."

Rosenberg boldly, stated what few newspapers remembered to mention, "Kilpatrick had not seen *Tongues Untied* when he wrote that Riggs's award-ladden film was 'grossly offensive.'

"The Rev. Donald E. Wildmon... hadn't seen it either when he promised that most of the nation would find it 'offensive'."

Rosenberg pointed out, in regard to the reactions of the television stations, "the dropout total affirms one of the depressing ironies of PBS: that many inside the system have little understanding of what public TV is about, oblivious to the fact that its mandate is to challenge viewers, not sedate them."

Conferred *Washington Post* staff writer David Mills, "The only thing *Tongues Untied* promotes is a deeper understanding of our world. Viewers who think they simply can't deal with the sight of two shirtless men rolling around in bed in slow motion, well, perhaps they should consider this an instructive dose of reality."

The unexpected attention from the nationwide sensationalism around the two-year-old video came at an inopportune time for Riggs, working to finish his feature length documentary, *Color Adjustment*. The follow-up to his *Ethnic Notions* will throw the black images on prime time television back into America's face. Riggs has also been awarded his third NEA grant—for another film on homophobia, sexism and racism—promising that there will be plenty for the self-appointed watch dogs of America to complain about for some time to come.

Black Men's Xchange Holds First Retreat

COMPTON—The Black Men's Xchange, (BMX) held its first annual national retreat and conference July 12-14.

In the forefront of business conducted, the Oakland chapter of the organization was designated to become the BMX national headquarters. The Denver and Minneapolis chapters were welcomed as the newest branches of the organization.

"BMX is now able to forge a national agenda of black gay empowerment," said Joe Hawkins, who will run the national office in Oakland.

There were about 30 representatives from various chapters attending the retreat, the first gay event of this magnitude to be held in Compton.

"We as black gay men and women should not be subjected to (alienation) from our own people," noted Robert Jones from BMX/Sacramento. "We have a lot to offer our community. We are intelligent, we are talented, we are caring and all we want to do is come back home and work with people we are about."

Jones and Hawkins have given the Sacramento chapter a high visibility in the region, interfacing with black non-gay organizations.

After breakfast, participants attended a number of workshops focusing on the development of BMX: outreach and recruitment, development strategies for new chapters, organizing speaker's bureaus and getting local political groups to include a black gay agenda.

Greg Coleman, chair of the conference's host chapter, BMX/Los Angeles, said, "We have been very successful at creating avenues of communication between black gays and lesbians and the mainstream African-American community and are confident that this will lead to a more empowered black community."

Following dinner, the participants attended a presentation of *Fierce Love*. The Sunday session dealt largely with HIV issues and planning for the next retreat.

Cleo Manago, founder and organizer of BMX described the group as, "Afrocentric, meaning black in concept, design and implementation, and taking a holistic approach, designed to aid in healing the external as well as the internal wounds that years of denial and unacceptance has caused us to heap upon ourselves."

Pannell Cops Ward 8 Seat

WASHINGTON—Phil Pannell has been elected chair of the Washington Ward 8 Democratic Committee, defeating several other widely known politicians. Pannell will now have a seat on the Democratic Party State Committee, only the fourth gay person to do so.

His first action on the citywide state committee, said Pannell, will be to introduce a resolution calling for an appeal of the District sodomy law.

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BLK

Black Caucus Gets AIDS Information

BY MARK HAILE,
BLK ASSOCIATE EDITOR

WASHINGTON—A Capital Hill hearing room was packed on July 16 for the unprecedented meeting of the U.S. Congressional Black Caucus on AIDS in the African-American community.

While a scheduling conflict with the Democratic Party prevented most members of the Congressional Black Caucus from attending personally, most sent aides, or were briefed in full before hand and later on. The individual rating records of the Caucus make it one of the highest ranked groups among members of Congress on AIDS related issues.

The purpose of the briefing was to have the Caucus as a whole take on a leadership role in bringing HIV treatment, education and other services into the African-American community.

The briefing was organized and chaired by Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.) with Anita Taylor, director of the public policy program of the National Minority AIDS Council and the assistance of the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention and Belinda Rochelle, health issues lobbyist of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Also speaking at the briefing were Reggie Williams, Executive Director of the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention; Brenda V. Smith, National Task Force on AIDS Prevention; Dr. Janet Mitchell, Chief of Perinatology, Harlem Hospital; Harlon Dalton, of the National Commission on AIDS; Rashidah Hassan, founder of Blacks Educating Blacks About Sexual Health Issues; and Dr. Wibert Jordan, of Drew-King Medical Center in Los Angeles.

Rep. Waters was pleased with the level of commitment that members of the Black Caucus are offering in HIV issues. "I think you find good support here," Rep. Waters told BLK. "We walked away with members willing to take this issue on as their issue." She said that HIV issues will be a prominent topic at the Congressional Black Caucus Weekend, where legislative strategies will be hammered out in depth.

Waters noted that there are no members of the Caucus who have introduced anything less than sensible legislation on HIV related issues. She saw the coalition building around HIV concerns picking up steam, pointing out the participation of Rep. Connie Morella (R-Md.) who has introduced legislation on women and HIV.

"The impact of AIDS on the African-American community will be catastrophic if we do not begin to address critical health care issues," said Rochelle at the briefing. "We need a voice and we need leadership."

Anita Taylor was pleased to see the issue of HIV more out of the committee structure and onto the "front burner" position. "My goal was to get together the leaders to take the initiative, to take a leadership role," she told BLK.

Rochelle concurred that the Congressional Black Caucus is "Very much in our corner when it comes to our issues." The briefing was hardly an overnight success, the groundwork having been laid shortly after the February release of the controversial Veterans Administration's HIV study.

In virtually all of the testimony offered, activists pointed out the speed at which HIV has risen to being one of the major causes of death for women, for infants, and as restated by Dr. Mitchell, "The most disenfranchised of the disenfranchised." She noted the chilling effect government cutbacks have had in public hospitals, such as her own Harlem Hospital Center where 20 percent of the patients at any given time are there for HIV related conditions. She was quite familiar "that medicine was not and is not exempt from institutional racism." She reiterated that "the problems in our health care delivery system that AIDS brings to the forefront have existed for decades. If AIDS was to disappear tomorrow, these problems would still exist."

Reggie Williams charged, "The African-American community as a whole remains in a state of widespread denial around the existence, much less the exploding incidence of HIV infection within its ranks." To counter that denial, Williams said that, "Such education must begin at the top from the most visible, important leaders in the African-American community. That means you."

Williams, exasperated at being distracted from the course of carrying out his job of HIV education because of the timidity of government officials in discussing how to save the lives of black gay men testified, "Homophobia is like an elephant in the living room of the black community's home, which everyone must deal with in their daily comings and goings, but which no one will discuss."

Rep. Donald Payne (D-N.J.), exemplified how an individual member of the Congressional Black Caucus was already well acquainted with how HIV has impacted his home district, which includes the cities of Newark and Orange. Rep. Payne was among the first members of the Caucus to convene a hearing of local organizations, health care providers and activists in March to bring testimony to Washington on how HIV has so disproportionately impacted the black community.

As Taylor repeated from her testimony, "This should only be the beginning of a powerful union between our elected national leaders and our advocates for adequate health care and social change."

BMX in Denver Charges Racism

DENVER—A letter from the Denver Black Men's Xchange to local media has charged the Matchmaker, a downtown Denver dance club, with racial discrimination and condoning "the use and distribution of illicit drugs."

While the charges of racism are not new, said BMX, the form of discrimination is. Allegedly, staff members are applying a one-drink minimum in an un-even manner, ejecting black patrons who do not immediately purchase a beverage.

Matchmaker manager Pete Keegan was surprised at the allegations, denying any policy aimed at black men. The staff has been directed to keep hustlers out of the bar, as well as any one suspected of dealing drugs, he said.

The downtown bar is in the vicinity of Denver's crack alleys, an area popular with young prostitutes.

Black Men's, Women's Retreats Planned

LOS ANGELES—United Lesbians of African Heritage has announced a retreat, Sistahfest, for the Oct. 4-6 weekend. The event, themed "On Common Ground," will include sports, games, ceremonies, poetry readings, cultural activities, workshops and entertainment. Dancing on Saturday night's "Club ULOAH" will be provided by well-known "Claudette Sexy DJ."

Sistahfest will take place at the Cottontail Ranch in a secluded canyon above Malibu, with a capacity of 200 participants.

Organizers have made very attempt to make the event as accommodating as possible to women with special considerations. A variety of vegetarian and non-vegetarian meals will be provided and ULOAH has a scholarship program to assist as many women as possible to attend.

That same weekend, the Black Gay Men's Retreat will take place at Camp Seely Valcrest in the San Bernardino mountains. The men's retreat, limited to 60 black gay men, will allow ample time for leisure activities between workshops on self-esteem, sexuality, self-empowerment and heterosexism, among other topics.

Leisure activities will include hiking, archery, swimming and volleyball, with a Saturday night talent show and dance.

More information on Sistahfest is available at 213-960-5051, and for Brother to Brother at 213-666-5495.

Mason Quits Council Race

BOSTON—Abner Mason announced an early withdrawal from the race for the Boston City Council on July 26. The first openly gay African-American in that city to run for elected office, a number of factors apparently contributed to his decision to formally withdraw.

The Boston Board of Elections had received 897 verified signatures as of July 31, of the 1,500 necessary to run for an at-large city council seat.

Mason's candidacy was further complicated by his being an upfront Republican, which many activists vocally found problematic at best, or hypocritical at their most vitriolic.

Mason received many important endorsements in his first bid for public office, including that of city councilor David Scondras, the Log Cabin Republican Club, the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights and the Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus.

Mason has endorsed Roxbury District 7 city councilor Bruce Bolling, considered a front runner in the race. Mason said he had met with Bolling, and found him to be an "established and accomplished advocate" of African-Americans as well as lesbians and gay men, and would work on behalf of his campaign.

CDC July Statistics on AIDS Cases in U.S.

	White (not Latino)		Black (not Latino)		Latino		Asian/Pacific Islander		Amer. Indian/ Askan. Native		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
MALE												
Gay and bisexual contact	74,866	80	18,088	44	11,566	46	836	82	144	62	105,741	65
Straight IV drug use	6,170	7	14,637	36	9,700	39	32	3	27	12	30,641	19
Gay and bisexual contact, and IV drug use	6,830	7	3,220	8	1,700	7	24	2	37	16	11,823	7
Hemophilia and coagulation disorder	1,242	1	105	0	120	0	17	2	8	3	1,497	1
Straight contact	690	1	2,838	7	428	2	9	1	5	2	3,976	2
Receipt of blood transfusion, blood components or tissue	1,806	2	379	1	229	1	46	5	2	1	2,471	2
Other and undetermined	2,034	2	1,912	5	1,289	5	57	6	9	4	5,344	3
Male subtotal	93,638	100	41,179	100	25,032	100	1,021	100	232	100	161,493	100
FEMALE												
IV drug use	1,971	41	5,341	56	1,901	50	15	16	18	53	9,263	51
Hemophilia and coagulation disorder	28	1	6	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	38	0
Straight contact	1,425	30	3,134	33	1,412	37	33	35	9	26	6,035	33
Receipt of blood transfusion, blood components or tissue	997	21	324	3	197	5	28	30	4	12	1,554	9
Other and undetermined	343	7	691	7	252	7	17	18	3	9	1,311	7
Female subtotal	4,764	100	9,496	100	3,766	100	93	100	34	100	18,201	100
Total	98,402		50,675		28,798		1,114		266		179,694	

Source: "Adult/Adolescent AIDS Cases by Sex, Exposure Category and Race/Ethnicity Reported through June 1991, United States," U.S. Centers for Disease Control. HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, July 1991.

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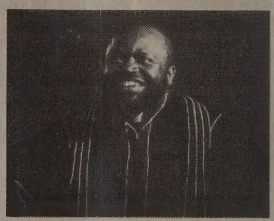

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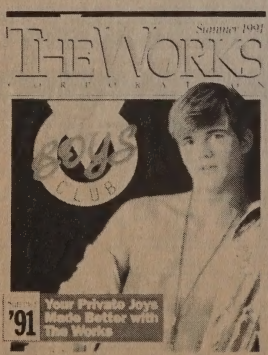

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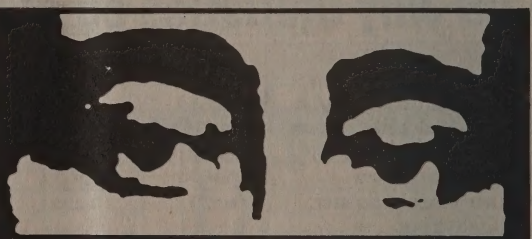

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BOOKS

BY ALAN E. MILLER

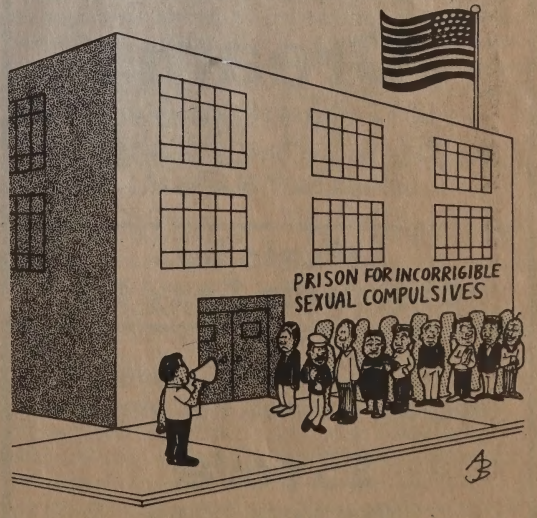
In this new column, I plan to review some books at length, others rather cursorily, but I do intend to give each a thorough reading. (That some of them will be *read* more thoroughly than others is one of the hazards and delights of reviewing them. More on that later.) I'll use this space to pass on inquiries for writers, gossip about the books that writers are planning and to announce signing tours and public appearances. This column is a response to a need, to the reality that more black lesbians and gays and others are writing and publishing books of interest to our community.

So far most of the books I've received are by men, but I really want to know and review writing by women. And I'd also like to hear from women interested in being reviewers. It was women writers who literally nurtured my own writing. While a high school student in Chicago, I met State of Illinois Poet Laureate Gwendolyn Brooks through a contest she sponsored at my neighborhood library. Shortly thereafter, I met Sonia Sanchez, who insisted on taking me to readings, mostly benefits for the Black Panthers, Mark Clark, Fred Hampton, *et al.* As a high school teacher, and as a lifelong reader and writer, I'll be writing what I believe we need to hear and know about the state of books.

Conferences have become increasingly important to us. The National Black Gay and Lesbian Conferences have become increasingly valuable to writers and other artists. It's a place of networking, sharing and encouragement. The Out/Write Conferences (sponsored by *Out/Look* magazine) boasted a strong black lesbian and gay presence, last year perhaps more than this year, in which some attendees complained that Latinas and Latinos seemed to be the flavor of the month. Remember the statement that Joe Beam and Barbara Smith presented to that National Conference of Black Writers three years ago? I have recently read a dynamite short story by Randy Boyd, a writer I met at this year's Out/Write. His short story "Hostage" is included in *Certain Voices*, an anthology of "short stories about gay men." (Randy just completed a novel, by the way, which is now making the rounds of the publishers.) Randy's story describes what happens when a brother tries to return home as a gay man to a family that has always belittled him. The protagonist brings along a gun to make sure that everybody's listening. Y'all hear?! The anthology, edited by Darryl Pilcher and published by Alyson Press for $8.95, also includes a short story by Larry Duplechan, whose main character laments in his contribution that "just a week ago Thursday I was chicken." Indeed!

Another writer I met this spring at both BGLLF and Out/Write, Steven Corbin, encouraged me to look closely at *Breaking Ice: An Anthology of Contemporary African-American Fiction* (edited by Terry McMillan, Penguin Books, $10.95 paper). What I found was that at least five of the 57 contributors were openly gay or lesbian—not to mention another seven or eight who are rumored to be on the q.t. Besides Corbin's own story, Becky Birtha has a funny, insightful offering about a black lesbian who is coming of age—could her "Johnnieruth" be the beginning of a longer work? I hope so—and Samuel Delany, Melvin Dixon, and Randall Kenan also are included. (Birtha's new book of short stories, *Lover's Choice*, Seal Press, $8.95, which opens with her contribution to *Ice*, just arrived and will be reviewed in the next column.) By the way, novelist Kenan (*A Visitation of Spirits*, Grove Weidenfeld, 1989) reviewed Dixon's novel *Vanishing Rooms* (Dutton, $18.95) in a recent issue of *Emerge* magazine. I won't lie and say I can't put it down, but I will tell you that I didn't want to. More later.

School will be starting soon so it's a good time to discuss children's books. Alyson Press is now publishing a line of very important books for children, appropriately called Alyson Wonderland Books. These include two books by Michael Willhoite,



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Daddy's Roommate ($14.95), and a coloring book called *Families* which sensitively and humorously depicts many types of families, including gay and lesbian families, families of all ethnicities, extended families and families created by divorce—not to mention the bluejay and duck families. Hmmmmm. This series has already received a great deal of favorable publicity. Leslea Newman has also written two books for them, *Heather Has Two Mommies* ($6.95, paper), and *Gloria Goes to Gay Pride* ($7.95, paper). These books are doing a great job of depicting many types of gay people, including us! The most interesting, written by two white lesbians, Ann Heron and Meredith Maran, is called *How would you feel if your Dad was gay?* The illustrations depict a black gay male couple who share custody of two children, a boy and a girl. It was really heartwarming to read this book, to see those pictures. Reading these books with your children, your siblings, your nieces and nephews is what will bring the revolution closer to reality. I do wonder, however: How many of us black gay and lesbian writers are writing for this market, for our community in this way? Write and let me know.

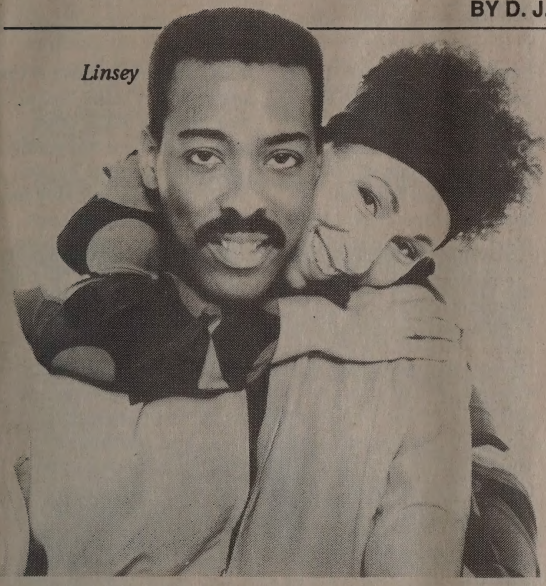
The next anthology is my favorite. *BloodWhispers: L.A. Writers on AIDS* contains many types of writing —poems, eulogies, memoirs, performance pieces, short fiction—and its contributors are, reflecting the spread and impact of the disease, all kinds. Terry Wolverton edited this moving and often startling collection that features pieces by Mark Haile and Ayofemi Folayan; published by Silverton Press, it sells for $7.95. This is a wonderful book. Buy it. Read it. Buy more of them and give them away!

Finally, as most of you are aware, *Brother to Brother* (Alyson Books, paper, a steal at $8.95) is here and there and everywhere. Essex Hemphill, Marlon Riggs and myself staged a very successful reading from the collection in San Francisco. (Marlon stuck a gardenia behind his ear while reading Charles Henry Fuller's short story "The Jazz Singer," which I quickly called a "dangerous precedent.") It was great fun. With many more readings to follow in bars as well as bookstores, who knows what will happen? Essex will be zipping around the country to spread the word. *Brother to Brother* is the number three selling gay book in the United States now and will soon be starting a second printing. There's meat for your table in this anthology. It's all there, all four food groups. This important book isn't just poetry and stories, but essays, interviews, and a very useful bibliography of books, journals and periodicals by black gay authors and publishers. Within two days of receiving the book, I had completed it. We're all here, including Rory Buchanan, the star reader of this year's *Brother to Brother* reading at the BGLLF. (Rory, by the way, should be finishing his book soon.) I'd like to personally thank contributor Don Charles for giving me something to read.

'Til next time, keep reading and writing.

MUSIC

BY D. J. MARIUS



Linsey

LINSEY
"Perfect Love"
(Virgin)

The well traveled territories of jazz and R&B get a fresh take on life from the performing duo Linsey. Love is the theme brought forward, not only on the album, but in real life as well. A strong love of music united their talents, and a stronger love united Lynne and Wayne Linsey in marriage.

Their debut album, *Perfect Love*, is an excellent showcase for what has become, for both, a varied musical career. Lynne, a graduate of the Berklee School of Music in Boston, has recorded with Anita Baker and Nancy Wilson. She has also toured with Stevie Wonder and Bill Withers. Wayne started playing in night clubs at the age of 14, and studied later at Howard University. He first recorded with the band Starpoint, then with Bobby Brown and the Winans. He then went on the road with, among others, Aretha Franklin and Randy Crawford.

A pleasurable listening experience, the album is also a family affair. Wayne plays most of the album's instruments, and Lynne supplies the lead vocals and handles the vocal arrangements. On the superb cut "Searchin'," her voice echoes the soft, innocent sensuality of Patrice Rushen and Minnie Riperton.

The introspective "It's Not A Waste Of Time," which features a passionate guest vocal turn from Withers, has gotten considerable radio airplay. Other standouts include the laid back "Bring It Back," and the touching "U R Loved."

BRAND NEW HEAVIES
"Brand New Heavies"
(Delicious Vinyl)

Take five talented musicians: saxophonist Jim Wellman, drummer/keyboardist Jan Kincaid, percussionist/guitarist Lascelles Gordon, guitarist Simon Bartholomew, and bassist Andrew Levy. Add a modernized version of vintage 70s funk, and you have the London-born quintet the Brand New Heavies. Mixing the funk with a dance music edge and components of "acid jazz," the band has quickly become a popular live act within England's club curcuit, playing with groups such as Soul II Soul and the Pasadenas.

A strong retrospective feel is apparent, not only in the band's style of dress, but in musical attitude as well. Featured vocalist N'Dea Davenport adds an element of soulful credibility. Her clear, strong singing style provides a sultry touch to the funky jazz mix.

Some great instrumental pieces are to be found here, but the album's more solid cuts feature Davenport's vocals. Check out the album's strongest track, "Never Stop," and "Ride In The Sky," which echoes Tower of Power's best work. This debut project is definitely worth listening to—you may end up believing that the Brand New Heavies are, as their press material states, "what the future should sound like... love, having a good time, and raw, pure funk."

INNOCENCE
"Belief"
(Chrysalis)

British soulsters keep coming fast and strong on the American music scene. The debut album by Innocence, *Belief*, shows the strength of the Brits to reinterpret the African American art form known the world over as soul music.

This impressive first effort from London's up-and-coming production team of Anna and Mark Jolley and Brian Harris has a strong dance feel, while maintaining a constant R&B energy. This holds true the band's aim to create music as listenable as it is danceable.

Providing an outstanding vocal performance, lead singer Gee Morris takes the record to another level. Morris started singing at 14 and clearly has the talent to become one of music's reigning divas.

Full of songs for every mood, some of the album's highs include the dancefloor-friendly first single, "Let's Push It," (don't miss the remix!) and the pulsating anti-apartheid cut "Natural Thing." The jazzy, brooding "Silent Voice," Morris explains, speaks to "the silence of children, innocent parties who can't do anything for themselves in an adult world."

THE RULES OF THE GAME

BY EMANUEL

The other day I was thinking about the first job I had when I moved to the big city. Little me, young, cute and ready to start my career with one of the largest companies in the state. My first day on the job I walked into this huge room and there sat about 45 young women and four ancient old men. You know, the grandfatherly type.

After about four days on the job, I started hearing little rumors that Janice liked me. Then I heard Belinda liked me. Then Cheryl. Of course the usual questions followed. Are you married? Do you have a girlfriend? Do you date? You "gotta" car? I was quite nervous answering these questions, yet I was flattered at the same time.

The kind women just threw their hands up in the air and finally asked, "Are you a faggot?"

I had no idea what to do when all of these women started liking me. At the time, I still had one foot stuck in the closet door. To me, my career was on the line. I thought revealing my sexual preference at the time could have been detrimental to my future advancement with this company.

Yeah, I know, there are some of us that learned to snap and say "Miss Thing" as soon as we peaked out of that closet. You thought liking boys and being a sissy went hand in hand. (Let me assure you that this article is definately not a condemnation of effeminate men. To each his own).

I can remember at 13 discovering how good it felt to lay on top of my buddy, Raymond.

Well, Raymond figured that since he liked boys, this was his ticket to twisting his hips, trying his sister's nail polish and make-up on, snapping his fingers, bringing his voice two decibels higher and still saying, "Oh, my mother doesn't know I'm gay." Soon the whole neighborhood was saying, "That boy is going to grow up to be a punk." Child—the neighborhood was right.

Anyway, back on the job. One day I was invited to lunch by four of the women. I knew I should have declined because I figured this was "Let's Dissect Him Day." I was scared to death. How do I tell them? What do I say? Will they run back and tell everyone? Should I start "flaming" and let them figure it out for themselves? Well, I'm not too happy to let you know now—I lied. Told them my girlfriend lived in another state and I was totally devoted to her. I sat my sister's picture on my desk—thank goodness we don't look alike—gave her a new name and told everyone this was my "old lady." After a while, they started to ask when was she coming to visit...

Today, I definitely would handle that situation differently. I'm older, more established and quite comfortable with my homosexuality. Now I can sit you down, let you know my sexual preference and have you standing up cheering, ready to walk the picket lines for lesbian and gay rights.

My past experiences have taught me not to hassle younger gays that are still in the closet. They too have their future to think about and are still uncomfortable with the world knowing whom they sleep with. I, too, felt that that was not the time to "come out."

I've been told by some gay activists that I should let my employer and whoever else know about my sexual preference from day one. I disagree. I never hear heterosexuals letting their preference be known from jump street. That old saying "There is a time and a place for everything" holds true in this instance. Did you let your college buddies know right off that you were gay? The first day on the job, did you let your employer know? No, most of us waited until we gained their confidence and respect.

Of course sometimes things are better left unsaid. Example: as I turned thirtysomething I realized my body needed a facelift. I looked around and chose a health spa which suited my needs—boys, boys, and more boys. I have become quite friendly and close with some of the guys at the spa and they think I'm just another one of the boys. Mind you, these are young men you'd forsake house, car, job, family, and dog for. They ask me to work out with them, to "spot" them, and "Did you see that 'fine mama' on the aerobics floor?"

A couple of them have asked me to go to"straight" clubs with them. One has asked me out to lunch twice, and another wants me to meet his wife and baby. Kenny (not his real name) has asked me if I've dated any of the women at the spa or in the church that we both belong to. What am I supposed to say, "No, but I've been wanting you though!"?

Yes I'll admit, I first started talking to Kenny because he is simply gorgeous. I just don't feel it is necessary to "out" myself with him or anyone else at the spa. I didn't put on a butch-act to gain their acceptance. I never commented on the women's fine asses either. I have simply been myself.

The bottom line is, when you feel absolutely comfortable with yourself and the people around you, then you hold your torch up like "Miss Liberty." "Out" yourself when you get ready.

Now I must stop here to go pick up my 16 and 19-year-old nephews who just the other day asked me how many girlfriends I have...

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READ MY LIPS

BY PRESTON E. GUIDER

With **Whitney** beating her on the charts and **Whitfield** routing her on the screen, **Miss Ross** has long needed a new plan. And, now Lynn Whitfield cops a Best Actress Emmy? What *is* that we smell burning?...**Denis Carney,** one of the dreadlocked heartthrobs at the National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference, appears in *The Black Bag,* a British TV production about homophobia in black and Asian communities...Meanwhile back in Massachusetts, **Abner Mason** and his partner of six years, **Joseph White,** spoke at a rally in support of a state bill that would legalize marriage between same sex couples. Mason was an openly gay candidate for the Boston City Council... Why is it we seem to be the only ones who were upset with a display at San Francisco's multi-AIDS agency gift shop, whose proceeds go help, among others, homeless people with AIDS? The T-shirt in question says in bold print, "No, I don't have a quarter"... Washington's **Brass Rail** donated $1,175 to **ICAN** last month. The money was collected from patrons during the club's live shows...International Mr. Leather **'D' Cannon,** back from judging the first deaf leatherman contest in Dallas, has now raised $26K in his first month in office...But in Atlanta, money matters are different. With sluggish ticket sales and no big money sponsors, "That's What Friends Are For" AIDS benefit concert originally scheduled for Aug. 2 was canceled. **Dionne Warwick, Anita Baker, Gladys Knight, Robert Townsend, the Dells** and **Jonathan Slocumb** had been set to appear. Look for a new date in the spring...**M*Thang,** the black gay rock trio, performs at the Center's Outmusic Coffee House in Manhattan Sept. 15...***Paris Is Burning*** has become a big hit in Chicago with full house crowds at the Fine Arts Theater quoting lines (*Rocky Horror Picture Show*-style) along with the actors on the screen. Looks like we have our own cult classic movie now. The question is not whether you've seen it, but how many times...Also in Chicago, beloved activist **Calvin Holmes** was given the mother of all going away parties at the expansive south loop loft home of **Kevin Hoover** Aug. 17. Hundreds wished Cal well as he begins graduate school studies at Cornell University this fall...For 45 years, **Randy's Record Shop** of Gallatin, Tenn. was the primary sponsor on midnight-to-dawn broadcasts of soul and gospel music on the 50,000-watt mid-South WLAC HQ'd in Nashville. Anyone who wanted Negro music in the 1950s-60s-70s heyday of AM radio while driving late at night in the Eastern U.S. knew **DJ John R** was the only choice, and he promoted the station as being "on the air, everywhere." On Aug. 15 Randy's Record Shop closed its doors for good, out of business... We've never been sure of the difference between hip hop and house, but in San Francisco, according to **Queer Nation** at least, HIP HOP stands for "Homos into Promoting Homos on Parade"...If you're in Phoenix suffering from the heat —and who isn't—then mosey on down to **GD's Rendezvous** and watch **Mr. "Q"** show off his invisible tan line. As long as you're gonna be hot, you might as well get hot...BWMT/Memphis hosted a showing of ***Tongues Untied*** at the Memphis Main Library. Their health committee reports, by the way, that they can't keep the condoms in stock at the **Apartment.** Guess we know where the hot, healthy and horny (and smart) men are going...When **Warren Sims** and his entourage showed up at the studio for the taping of the *Montiel Williams Show* a few weeks back, they were *warned* by a staff member that the evening's show was about lesbians and gay men. The staff member was duly set straight—so to speak—over protestations that he couldn't believe they were queer. Someone at the show ought to school the support staff real quick...And finally, here's one for you. What famous black gay poet spent a weekend together with what white gay photographer?

"Go ahead and let them on. With God about to turn on the flood gates, the last thing we need is a Queer Nation boycott."

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BLK LIST

BARS, BATHS AND CLUBS

Key:

- * Somewhat black
- ** Significantly black
- *** Mostly black
- **** All black
- † Mixed gay and straight

FRANCE

BH***, 7 Rue du Roule Metro, Chatalet, Paris. Parisean, African and Caribbean blacks. Blackest on Sunday.
Le Tour de Nesle****, near BH, Paris. African and Carribean blacks.

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Club 21**, 117½ - 21st St. N., Birmingham, AL 35210, 205-322-0469.

CALIFORNIA

Annex**, 835 S. La Brea Ave., Inglewood, CA 90301, 213-671-7323.
Basgo's*, 3909 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90029, 213-664-1929.
Bella Napoli***, 2330 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, CA 94612.
Bench & Bar*, 120 - 11th St., Oakland, CA 94607, 415-444-2266.
Brass Rail*, 3796 Fifth Ave., San Diego, CA 92103, 619-298-2233.
Cabel's Reef**, 2272 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, CA 94612, 415-451-3777.
Caper Room***, 244 S. Market St., Inglewood, CA 90301, 213-677-0403.
Catch One***, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-737-1159.
Cottage***†, 5050 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-935-5540.
Cover Girl Club***†, 9300 W. Jefferson Blvd., Culver City, CA 90230, 213-870-1595. Fridays Women's Night. (All other days, basically straight.)
Eagle*, 7864 Santa Monica Blvd., W. Hollywood, CA 90046, 213-654-3252. Blackest on Monday.
Eagle Creek Saloon***, 1884 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94112, 415-863-3323.
Griff's*, 4216 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90029, 213-660-0889.
Horizon***, 3416 W. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90018, 213-737-9678.
Jewel's Room***, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-737-1159.
Midtowne Spa**, 615 S. Kohler St., Los Angeles, CA 90021, 213-680-1838. Bathhouse.
Peacock Alley**, 1271 University Ave., San Diego, CA 92103, 619-295-5696.
Pendulum**, 4146 - 18th St., San Francisco, CA 94114, 415-863-4441.
Rage*, 8911 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90069, 213-652-7055.
Steamworks*, 2107 - 4th St., Berkeley, CA 94710, 415-845-8992. Bathhouse.
Study***, 1723 N. Western Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90027, 213-464-9551.
Whistle Stop****, 2236 Fern St., San Diego, CA 92104, 619-284-2845. Black on Saturdays only.
White Horse Inn*, 6551 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, CA 94609, 415-652-3820.

COLORADO

Club Raven***, 2217 Welton St., Denver, CO 80205, 303-297-1741.
Taste*, 2217 Welton St., Denver, CO 80205, 303-296-1741.

DIST. OF COLUMBIA

Bachelor's Mill****, 1104 - 8th St., S.E., Washington, DC 20003, 202-544-1931.
Back Door Pub****, 1104 - 8th St., S.E., Washington, DC 20003, 202-546-5979.
Brass Rail****, 476 K St., N.W., Washington, DC 20001.
Delta Elite****, 3734 - 10th St., N.E., Washington, DC 20017, 202-832-9839. Gay on Friday and Sunday.
Encore Social Club****, 1900 Fenwick St., N.E., Washington, DC 20002, 202-526-8655.
Mr. P's*, 2147 P St., N.W., Washington, DC 20037, 202-293-9009.
Nob Hill****, 1101 Kenyon St., N.W., Washington, DC 20010, 202-797-1101.
Phase One***, 525 - 8th St., S.E., Washington, DC 20003, 202-544-6831.
Tracks****, 1111 - 1st St., S.E., Washington, DC 20003, 202-488-3320. Blackest on Sunday.

FLORIDA

Boca Chica**, Boca Chica Key, Stock Island, Key West, FL 33040, 305-296-2082.
Club Twenty-One*, 2920 S.W. 30th Ave., Hallandale, FL 33009.
Red Garter**, 1 W. Main St., Pensacola, FL 32501, 904-432-9188.
Sugar's**, 13705 Biscayne Blvd., North Miami Beach, FL 33181, 305-940-9887.
Third Dimension**, 711 Edison Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32205, 904-353-6316.

GEORGIA

Armory*, 836 Juniper, Atlanta, GA 30309, 404-881-9280.
The Cove*, 586 Worchester, Atlanta, GA 30306, 404-875-2477.
Deep Purple*, 1305 First Ave., Columbus, GA 31901.
Loretta's****, 708 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, GA 30308, 404-874-8125.
Pear Garden**, 111 Luckie St., Atlanta, GA 30303, 404-659-4055.
Traxx***, 306 Luckie St., N.W., Atlanta, GA 30313, 404-681-5033. Gay on Friday and Saturday. Straight on Thursday.

ILLINOIS

Clubhouse****, 440 N. Halstead St., Chicago, IL 60622, 312-421-3588.
Faces***, 130 N. 4th St., East St. Louis, IL 62201, 618-271-7410.
Henry's Palace****, 936 N. Cicero Ave., Chicago, IL 60651.
Jeffrey Pub****, 7041 S. Jeffrey Blvd., Chicago, IL 60649, 312-363-8555.
Loading Dock**, 3702 N. Halsted St., Chicago, IL 60613, 312-929-6108.
Man's Country**, 5017 N. Clark, Chicago, IL 60651, 312-878-2069. Bathhouse.
Martin's Den****, 5550 S. State St., Chicago, IL 60621, 312-363-9470.
New 411 Club****†, 411 E. 63rd St., Chicago, IL 60637, 312-684-9387. Days straight, nights gay.
Normandy**, 3401 N. Sheffield, Chicago, IL 60657, 312-348-9806.
Roscoe's**, 3356 N. Halsted St., Chicago, IL 60657, 312-281-3355.
Stop and Drink****, 742 N. Clark St., Chicago, IL 60610.

LOUISIANA

Biggle's****, 810 N. Claiborne, New Orleans, LA 70116, 504-524-8692.
Bourbon Pub/Parade Disco**, 801 Bourbon, New Orleans, LA 70116, 504-529-2107.
Club Connections****, 913 N. Claiborne, New Orleans, LA 70116, 504-822-4402.
Golden Lantern**, 1239 Royal St., New Orleans, LA 70116, 504-523-6300.
Pinstripes and Lace****, 732 N. Claiborne, New Orleans, LA 70116, 504-528-9578. Women.
Wolfendale's****, 834 N. Rampart, New Orleans, LA 70116, 504-524-5749.

MARYLAND

Allegro**, 3101 Cathedral St., Baltimore, MD 21201, 301-837-3906.
Club Mardi Gras*, 228 Park Ave., Baltimore, MD, 301-727-8878.
Gallery*, 1735 Maryland Ave., Baltimore, MD 21201, 301-539-6965.
Hippo*, 1 W. Eager St., Baltimore, MD 21202, 301-576-0018. Blackest on Thursday.
Our Place East***, 900 E. Monument St., Baltimore, MD.
Our Place West***, 608 W. Lexington St., Baltimore, MD 21201, 301-837-7637.
Paradise Inn***, 1302 Laurens St., Baltimore, MD 21211, 301-728-9782.
Scandal's Downtown*, 610 Lexington, Baltimore, MD, 301-547-8977.
Sportsman Bar***, 412 Park Ave., Baltimore, MD 21201, 301-727-9620, 301-727-8935.
Tikki's***, 616 W. Lexington St., Baltimore, MD 21201, 301-539-9002. Women's bar.

MICHIGAN

Backstage*, 17630 Woodward N., Detroit, MI 48226, 313-869-3988.
Backstreet*, 15606 Joy Rd., Detroit, MI 48228, 313-272-8959.
Bookies***, 18952 Woodward, Detroit, MI 48226, 313-368-0300.
Continentale***, 156 Monroe, Detroit, MI 48226, 313-964-9706.
Copa*, 565 S. Saginaw, Flint, MI 48502, 313-235-2500.
Glass House***, 950 W. McNichols Rd., Detroit, MI 48203, 313-342-4941.
Heaven***, 19106 Woodward Detroit, MI 48203, 313-368-5497
Menjos*, 928 W. McNichols, Detroit, MI 48203, 313-863-3934.
R and R Saloon**, 6918 Michigan Ave., Detroit, MI 48210, 313-849-2751.
Railroad Crossing*, 6640 E. 8 Mile, Detroit, MI 48234, 313-891-1020.
Shopper's Lounge****, 25 E. Grand River, Detroit, MI 48226, 313-961-1916.
TNT Health Club**, 13333 W. 8 Mile Rd., Detroit, MI 48235, 313-341-5322. Bathhouse.

MISSISSIPPI

Interchange**, 200 N. Mill St., Jackson, MS 39201, 601-353-2041.

MISSOURI

Magnolia's Restaurant and Bar*, 5 S. Vandeventer, St. Louis, MO 63108, 314-652-6500.
Nites II*, 212 N. Vanderventer, St. Louis, MO 63108, 314-652-3123.

NEBRASKA

Our Fantasy*, 3201 S. Hillside, Wichita, NE 67216, 316-682-5494.

NEW JERSEY

First Choice**, 533 Ferry St., Newark, NJ 07105, 201-465-1944.
Murphy's**, 59 Edison St., Newark, NJ 07102, 201-622-9176.
Rascals*, 611 Hick St., Asbury Park, NJ 07712.

NEW YORK

Clit Club**, 101 Avenue A, New York, NY. Tuesdays only.
Clit Club**, 432 W. 14th St., New York, NY, 212-406-1114. Fridays only.
Hatfield's*, 126-10 Queens Blvd., Kew Gardens, NY 11415, 718-261-8484.
Hideaway*, 87-36 Parsons Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11432, 718-657-4585.
Kellers****, 384 West St., New York, NY 10014, 212-243-1907.
Mt. Morris Baths***, 1944 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10035, 212-534-9004. Bathhouse.
Nite Spot**, 201 Windsor, Jamestown, NY 14701, 716-483-3456.
Octagon****, 555 W. 33rd St., New York, NY 10001, 212-947-0400.
Rage**, 369 Central Ave., Albany, NY 12206, 518-432-1108.
Red Zone**, 440 W. 54th St., New York, NY 10019, 212-582-2222.
Sally's Hideaway*, 264 W. 43rd St., New York, NY 10036, 212-221-9152.
Tunnel Bar***, 116 First Ave., New York, NY 10009, 212-777-9232.
Two Potato***, 143 Christopher St., New York, NY 10014, 212-255-0286, 212-242-9304.

NORTH CAROLINA

Lynn's**, 213 Hillsboro, Fayetteville, NC 27278, 919-485-4350.

OHIO

Carl's Place***, 303 W. 5th St., Cincinnati, OH 45202, 513-621-5021.
Flex Complex*, 1293 W. 9th St., Cleveland, OH 44113, 216-696-0595. Bathhouse.
Porky's**, 1946 St. Clair Ave., Cleveland, OH 44114, 216-861-1299.

PENNSYLVANIA

BJP***, 5300-02 Market, Philadelphia, PA 19139, 215-747-

4953.
Brandy's Bistro*, 5300-02 Market, Philadelphia, PA19139, 215-747-4958.
Club Body Center, 120 S. 13th St., Philadelphia, PA 19102.
Penny's Playhouse, 5300-02 Market, Philadelphia, PA 19139, 215-471-5778.
Studio 124**, 124 N. 4th St. Reading, PA 19601, 215-373-9079.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Candy Shop**, 1903 Two Notch Rd., Columbia, SC 29204.
New Attitude**, 706 W. Washington St., Greenville, SC 29601, 803-233-1387.

TENNESSEE

Apartment****, 343 Madison Ave., Memphis, TN 38103, 901-525-9491.
Family Affair***, 875 Vance Ave., Memphis, TN 38126, 901-527-0672.

TEXAS

Crew*, 309 W. Market St., San Antonio, TX 78205, 512-223-0333.
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Paper Moon*, 1430 N. Main, San Antonio, TX 78212, 512-225-7330.
Studio 13***, 1318 Westheimer Rd., Houston, TX 77006, 713-521-9030.

WISCONSIN

Hot Spot**, 2249 N. Humboldt Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53212, 414-264-1718. Blackest on Sundays.
Molly & Oscar's**, 405 Tower Ave., Superior, WI 54836.
Phoenix**, 235 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee, WI 53204, 414-278-9727.

ORGANIZATIONS

BRAZIL

Grupo Gay da Bahia, Caxia Postal 2552, 40.020 Salvador, Bahia.

CANADA

Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention, 55 McCaul St. #221, Toronto, ON M5T 2W7 ☎ 416-971-7588.
Black Gay and Lesbian AIDS Discussion, Box 55, Sta. F, Toronto, ON M4Y 2L4 ☎ 416-926-0063.

ENGLAND

African/Caribbean Black Lesbian Group, Hackney Women's Centre, 20 Dalston Lane, London E8 ☎ 071-254-2980.
Birmingham Black Lesbian and Gay Group, London ☎ 021-622-7351.
Birmingham Black Lesbian Group, Birmingham Women's Advice and Information Centre, Devonshire House, High St., Digbeth, Birmingham B12 0LP ☎ 021-773-6952.
Black Communities AIDS Team, Leeds City Council, Health Unit, Selectapost 14, 2nd Fl. Annexe, Civic Hall, Leeds LS1 3AQ ☎ 053-462431.
Black HIV/AIDS Forum, 29 New Walk, Leicester LE1 6TE ☎ 053-385-5955.
Black HIV/AIDS Forum, AIDS Unit #6003, Town Hall Extension, Manchester, M60 2JB.
Black HIV/AIDS Network, 106-108 King St., London W6 0QU ☎ 081-741-9585.
Black Lesbian and Gay Centre Project, Tottenham Town Hall, Annexe B, Town Hall Approach Rd., London N15 4RX ☎ 081-885-3543.
Blacklinders, Box 74, London SW12 9JY ☎ 071-673-1695.
Camden Black Lesbian Group, 54-56 Phoenix Rd., London NW1 ☎ 071-383-5405.
City of London Anti-Apartheid Group, BM City AA, London WC1N 3XX ☎ 01-837-6050.
Fusion, London Lesbian and Gay Centre. ☎ 071-358-1486.
Haringey Black Action, BM 4390, London WC1N 3XX.
Lager Black Lesbian/Gay Support Group, Southbank House, Black Prince Rd. #205, London SE1 7SJ ☎ 01-587-1643 or 01-587-163.
Leicester Black Lesbian and Gay Group, Michael Wood Centre, 29 New Walk, Leicester LE1 6TE ☎ 053-355-9995.
Lesbian and Gay Black Group, 40 Theobalds Rd., London WC1 ☎ 01-678-6606.
Let's Rap, c/o Dennis Carney, 47d Lorn Rd., London SW9 0AB ☎ 071-737-3881.
Light Skinned and Mixed Race Black Lesbian Group, London ☎ 01-885-3543.
Manchester Black Lesbian and Gay Group, Box 153, Manchester M60 1LP.
Nottingham Black Lesbian Group, Nottingham Lesbian Centre, 30 Chaucer St., Nottingham NG5 1LP ☎ 060-241-1475.
Onyx, 86 Caledonian Rd., London N1, England. ☎ 01-837-3337 or 071-837-2783.
Peckham Black Lesbian Group, Peckham Black Women's Centre, 69 Bellenden Rd., London SE15 ☎ 071-358-1486.
Young Black Lesbian Group, Lewisham Young Women's Project, 308 Brownhill Rd., Lewisham ☎ 081-698-6675.
Young Black Zamis, Camden Lesbian Centre, 52-54 Phoenix Rd., London NW1 ☎ 071-383-5405.

GHANA

Club De Le Gayes, c/o Enos Jeffreys, Bubuiashie-Atico, Box 3879, Accra ☎ 224-412.
Gay Liberation Group of Nkawkaw, c/o Festus Owusu Sekyere, Box 282, Nkawkaw-E/R

SOUTH AFRICA

Gay and Lesbian Organization of Witwatersrand, Box 23297, Joubert Park, Johannesburg 2044 ☎ 11-837-6413, 442-9066 fax.
Organization of Lesbians and Gay Activists, Box 7315, Roggebaai 8012, Cape Town.
Society for Homosexuals on Campus, Box 23017, Joubert Park 2044, Johannesburg.

SWEDEN

Africa Information Pool, RFSL, c/o Alfred Machela, Box 350, S-101 24, Stockholm.

ZIMBABWE

Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe, Box UA 425, Union Ave., Harare.

CALIFORNIA

Adult Children of Alcoholics, Jewel's Catch One, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-734-8849.
African-American Gay and Lesbian Cultural Alliance, 6709 La Tijera Blvd. #484, Los Angeles, CA 90045, 213-641-5643.
African-American Lesbians 40+, 415-465-2573.
African-American Men's Health Project, 74 New Montgomery St. #600, San Francisco, CA 94105, 415-597-9137.
Afro-Centric Support Group, San Diego, 619-263-8196. HIV positive support group.
Al-Anon for Black Gay and Lesbians, 1268 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114, 415-995-2581.
Alcoholics Anonymous/People of Color, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-936-4949.
Alcoholics Anonymous, Women's Self Acceptance, Crenshaw Alano Club, 4323 Leimert Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90008.
Beyond the Bars, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-936-4949.
Bisexuals of Color Caucus, San Francisco, CA, 415-821-3534.
Black and White Men Together/ Los Angeles, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd. #109-136, W. Hollywood, CA 90046, 213-664-4716.
Black and White Men Together/ San Diego, 2936 Lincoln Ave. #1990, San Diego, CA 92104, 619-528-1815.
Black and White Men Together/ San Francisco, 2261 Market St. #506, San Francisco, CA 94114, 415-931-BWMT.
Black Coalition on AIDS, 726 Broderick St., San Francisco, CA 94117, 415-931-3031, 415-553-8197.
Black Community AIDS Research and Education Project, 1283 Franz Hall, Los Angeles, CA 90024-1563, 213-206-5162.
Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, 2538 Hyperion #7, Los Angeles, CA 90027; Box 29812, Los Angeles, CA 90027, 213-666-5495.
Black and Gay for Life, Box 8081, Culver City, CA 90233.
Black Gay Men United, Box 20624, Oakland, CA 94620, 415-653-5880.
Black Gay Men's Coalition for Human Rights, 9001 Keith Ave., W. Hollywood, CA 90069, 213-274-3398.
Black Gay Men's Rap Group, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90016, 213-274-3398.
Black Lesbian Support Group, 415-839-3302, 415-653-5732.
Black Lesbians Support Group at Connexxus, 1017 N. La Cienega Blvd., #110, W. Hollywood, CA 90069, 213-652-3894.
Black Lesbians Under 25, 415-864-0876.
Black Men's Support Group, Berkeley, CA, 415-841-6224.
Black Men's Xchange, Los Angeles, 213-281-7742.
Black Men's Xchange, Sacramento, 916-454-0516.
Black Men's Xchange, Box 32005, Oakland, CA 94604, 415-839-9318.
Blacks Living with HIV Infection, ARC and AIDS, 213-666-5493.
California Rainbow, Box 3805, Los Angeles, CA 90051.
Cocaine Anonymous, Jewel's Catch One, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-734-8849.
Early Advocacy and Care for HIV, 625 O'Farrell St., San Francisco, CA 94109, 415-864-1214.
Gentlemen Concerned, Box 712298, Bunker Hill Sta., Los Angeles, CA 90071.
HIV Survival Group for People of Color, IKUNU Program, 220 N. Euclid Ave. #130, San Diego, CA 92114, 619-527-2477.
Kupona Network, 3220 Sacramento St., Berkeley, CA 94702, 415-665-2830.
Ladies Concerned, Box 37036, Los Angeles, CA 90037.
Lapis/Alcoholism Center for Women, 1147 S. Alvarado St., Los Angeles, CA 90006, 213-381-7805.
Lesbians and Gays of African Descent, Box 89174, San Diego, CA 92138, 619-294-6515.
Lesbians of Color Against Abuse, 415-621-8684.
Lesbians of Color Support Group, Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, CA 94705, 415-548-8283.
Los Angeles Black Lesbians and Gays, 213-758-7018.
Makeda, Box 78785, Los Angeles, CA 90016, 213-935-4105.
Men of All Colors Together/Bay Area, Box 811, Oakland, CA 94604, 415-261-7922.
Minority AIDS Project, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90016, 213-936-4949.
Multicultural Alliances for Prevention of AIDS, 6025 Third St., San Francisco, CA 94124, 415-822-7500.
Multicultural Lesbian Writer Group, San Francisco, CA, 415 995-2730.
Multicultural Prevention Resource Center, 1540 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94102, 415-861-2142.
National Association of Black and White Men Together, 584 Castro St. #140, San Francisco, CA 94114, 415-431-1976.
National Task Force on AIDS Prevention of the National Association of Black and White Men Together, 631 O'Farrell St., San Francisco, CA 94109, 415-749-6700.
Oakland Black Gay Political Association, 924 E. 20th St. #2 Oakland, CA 94606.
People of Color AIDS Survival Effort, 3177 Ocean View Blvd. San Diego, CA 92113, 619-231-9300.
Project WARN, 5601 W. Slauson Ave. #200, Culver City, CA 90230, 213-641-7795.
Racism and Homophobia in the Media Project, 30 Gardenside #6 San Francisco, CA 94131, 415-641-5706.
Rafiki Services Project, Box 11908, San Francisco, CA 94103 415-553-8806. AIDS support group.
Rap of Lyff, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90016 213-465-1193.
Regional Black Lesbian Conference Planning Committee, 213-753-4475.
Rue's House, Box 37036, Los Angeles, CA 90037, 213-295-4030.
Third World AIDS Advisory Task Force, Box 6182, San Francisco, CA 94101, 415-864-4376.
United Colors of Queer Nation San Francisco, 415-821-6108 415-985-7141.
United Lesbians of African Heritage, 1626 N. Wilcox St. #190 Los Angeles, CA 90028, 213-960-5051.
Unity Fellowship Church, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles CA 90016, 213-936-4948.
Women of Color Project, 1370 Mission St., San Francisco, CA 94103, 415-621-0505.
Womyn of Colors, 1213 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90038, 213-464-7400, ext. 205.
X-Calibre Club, 9001 Keith Ave W. Hollywood, CA 90069, 213-274-6272.
Z and Z Productions, 4153 Gaden Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90039.

COLORADO

African-American Gay Men's Group, Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Colorado, 124 E. Colfax #319, Denver, CO 80218, 303-831-6268.
B-A-Pal, 1525 Josephine St. Denver, CO 80206, 303-388-5862.
Black Gays and Lesbians United Against AIDS, Box 18974, Denver, CO 80218, 303-320-4602.

Black Gays and Lesbians United Against AIDS, Box 18974, Denver, CO 80218, 303-399-0329.
Black Men's Xchange, 1512 E. 14th Ave., Denver, CO 80218, 303-837-1530, 303-831-6268.

CONNECTICUT

Lesbians of Color, Yale Women's Center, 198 Elm St., New Haven, CT 06520, 203-624-8727.
Men of All Colors Together/Connecticut, Box 2735, Hartford, CT 06146-2735, 203-346-0199 (Mike, in Hartford), 203-497-8538 (Stevie, in New Haven).

DIST. OF COLUMBIA

Best Friends, 202-953-0681.
Bi Black Females, Box 90378, Washington, DC 20005, 202-715-6148.
Black and White Men Together/DC, Box 73111, Washington, DC 20056-3111, 202-452-9173.
Black Lesbian Support Group, 202-797-3500.
D.C. Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gay Men, Box 21543, Washington, DC 20009, 202-488-4771.
D.C. White Lesbians Against Racism Everywhere, 202-332-7338, 202-332-0202.
Faith Temple, 1313 New York Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20005, 202-544-2766.
HIV Support Group for African/American Men and Women, Whitman-Walker Clinic, 1407 S St., N.W., Washington, DC 20007, 202-797-3591.
Impact/DC, 300 I St., N.E. #300, Washington, DC 20002, 202-546-7228.
Inner City AIDS Network, 912 Third St., Washington, DC 20001-2511, 202-789-ICAN.
Intergroup Minority Project: AIDS Consortium and Trust (IMPACT), 300 I St., N.E. #301, Washington, DC 20002, 202-5-IMPACT.
National Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays, Box 19248, Washington, DC 20036-0248, 202-389-1094.
National Minority AIDS Council, 300 I St., N.E. #400, Washington, DC 20012, 202-544-1076.

FLORIDA

Bay Area Men of All Colors Together/Tampa, Box 2911, Tampa, FL 33601.
Black and White Men Together/Tallahassee/Big Bend, 411 Chapel Dr., Box 226, Tallahassee, FL 32304-3321 904-681-9499.
Black Support Group, Jacksonville, FL, 904-630-3237. For those HIV positive.

GEORGIA

African American Lesbian and Gay Alliance, Box 50374, Atlanta, GA 30302, 404-755-7731.
Black and White Men Together/Atlanta, Box 1334, Atlanta, GA 30301-1334, 404-794-2968.
Outreach, 741 Piedmont Ave., N.E. #500, Atlanta, GA 30308, 404-873-5992.
Zami, 404-315-7684.

ILLINOIS

Men of All Colors Together/Chicago, 4753 N. Broadway #1200, Chicago, IL 60640, 312-334-2012.
Brotherrs Projects, 6540 S. Woodlawn Ave., Chicago, IL 60637, 312-667-8313.
Chicago Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays, Box 378068, Chicago, IL 60637, 312-667-5632.
Chicago Lesbians Emerging Against Racism, 3712 N. Broadway #202, Chicago, IL 60613.
Committee of Black Gay Men, Box 7209, Chicago, IL 60680-7209, 312-248-5188.
Committee to Increase Black Gay and Lesbian Awareness, Box 64816, Chicago, IL 60664-0816.
GREAT (Gay, Racially Equal, and Together) Men, Box 7209, Chicago, IL 60680-7209, 312-248-5188.
Image Plus, 5354 N. Kenmore St., Chicago, IL 60640.
Informed and Connected, Box 64816, Chicago, IL 60664-0814, 708-515-5515.
Kupona Network, 4611 S. Ellis, Chicago, IL 60653, 312-536-3000.

INDIANA

Black and White Men Together/Indianapolis, Box 88784, Indianapolis, IN 46208, 317-271-9446.

KANSAS

Topeka Coalition, 2641 S.E. 11th St., Topeka, KS 66607.

KENTUCKY

Black and White Men Together/Louisville, Box 1838, Louisville, KY 40201, 502-772-3025.

MARYLAND

Baltimore Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays, 618 W. Franklin St. #6, Baltimore MD 21201.
Black and White Men Together/Baltimore, Box 22472, Baltimore, MD 21203, 301-225-9386, 301-542-3317.
Black Coalition of Lesbians and Gay Men, 3835 Reisterstown Rd., Baltimore, MD 21218, 301-542-6218 (Goldie), 301-669-4192 (Irv).
Blacks United for Gay and Lesbian Equality (BUGLE), Box 13429, Baltimore, MD 21203, 301-547-1829 (Brenda).

MASSACHUSETTS

Men of All Colors Together/Boston, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116.
Multicultural AIDS Coalition, 566 Columbus Ave., Boston, MA 02118, 617-536-8610.
Revolutionary Sisters of Color, Box 2798, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130.

MICHIGAN

Black and White Men Together/Detroit, Box 248831, Detroit, MI 48224, 313-864-1154.
Essence of Choice, Box 23367, Detroit, MI 48232.
Full Truth Faith Fellowship Church, 19700 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48203-1528, 313-366-2400.
Lesbians and Gays Against Racism, 312-744-4152.
Project: Survival, 15212 W. 7 Mile Rd., Detroit, MI 48235-2820, 313-567-7272.

MINNESOTA

Women of Color Stir Fry, 612-729-1360.

MISSOURI

Black and White Men Together/Kansas City, Box 412432, Kansas City, MO 64141, 816-931-4470.
Blacks Assisting Blacks Against AIDS, Box 150531, St. Louis, MO 63115, 314-367-0191.
Lesbians and Gays of Color, c/o Phoenix Books, 6 W. 39th St., Kansas City, MO 64111, 816-931-6822.

NEBRASKA

People of All Colors Together/Omaha, 2211 Jones St. #1F. Omaha, NE 68102.

NEW YORK

African American Wimmin United for Societal Change, 208 W. 13th St., New York, NY 10011, 212-620-7310.
Black Lesbian, 2130 First Ave. #2601, New York, NY 10029, 212-565-8365.
Bronx Lesbians United in Sisterhood, Box 1244, Bronx, NY 10462, 212-829-9817, 212-409-1131.
Brooklyn Lesbians Together, 718-636-5297.
Brooklyn Task Force on AIDS, 718-596-4781.
Carribean Women's Health Association, 244 Utica Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11213, 718-826-2942.
Club F, 208 W. 13th St., New York, NY 10011, 212-491-7228.
Committee on the Visibility of Other Black Women, 2130 First Ave., New York, NY 10029, 718-565-8365.
Gay African Americans of Westchester, 172 Ravine Ave. #3D, Yonkers, NY 10701-1843, 914-376-0727.
Gay, Bisexual, Lesbians of Color, Cornell University, 535 Willard Straight Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853.
Gay Men of African Descent, 80 Varick St., New York, 10013, 212-226-4433, 212-226-4462.
Gay Men of the Bronx, 1 Fordham Plaza #800, Bronx, NY 10458.
Haitian Coalition on AIDS, 50 Court St. #605, Brooklyn, NY 11201, 718-855-7275.
Lavender Light, 178 Clermont Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11205, 212-222-9794.
Lesbian and Gay People of Color Steering Committee, 212-562-3131, 212-505-0506, 212-995-8585.
Lesbians and Gays of Flatbush, Box 106, Brooklyn, NY 11230, 718-859-9437.
Majority Action Committee, ACT-UP, Box 7932, New York, NY 10150.
Mama Doesn't Know! Productions, 208 W. 13th St., New York, NY 10011, 212-245-6366, 212-827-6350.
Men of All Colors Together/New York, Box 1518, New York, NY 10023, 212-245-6366, 212-222-9794.
Men of Color AIDS Prevention Program, c/o Office of Gay and Lesbian Health Issues, Dept. of Health, 125 Worth St. #601, Box 67, New York, NY 10013, 212-566-4995.
Minority Lesbian and Gay Physicians and Medical Students, c/o Gene Nakajima, 155 E. 29th St. #19-H, New York, NY 10016, 212-213-9471.
Minority Task Force on AIDS, 92 St. Nicholas Ave. #1B, New York, NY 10026, 212-749-2816.
New York Black Women's Health Project, Box 401037, Brooklyn, NY 11240, 718-596-6000.
New York Chapter of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays, Box 1399, New York, NY 10026, 718-622-3576.
Other Countries, Box 3142, New York, NY 10008, 212-505-0506.
Parents of Color and Our Families, 718-596-7979.
Sister-to-Sister, New York, NY, 718-596-6000. HIV positive support group.
Study Group on Black Lesbians, Lesbian Herstory Archives, Box 1258, New York, NY 10116, 212-874-7232.
VOCAL, c/o Office of Gay and Lesbian Health Issues, Dept. of Health, 125 Worth St. #601, Box 67, New York, NY 10013, 212-566-4995.

NORTH CAROLINA

Black and White Men Together/Charlotte, c/o Woody Mitchell, 2116 Shade Valley Rd. #AB, Charlotte, NC 28205-7357.
Black and White Men Together/Triangle, Box 3411, Durham, NC 27702, 919-490-1555.
Black and White Men Together/Yadkin, Box 3434, Salisbury, NC 28145.
Triangle Coalition, 604 W. Chapel Hill St., Durham, NC 27701.
Triangle Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays, BPW Club Rd., #A-11, Carrboro, NC 27510, 919-933-6548.

OHIO

Black and White Men Together/Cleveland, Box 5144, Cleveland, OH 44101-0144, 216-371-4597.
Black and White Men Together/Columbus, Box 151276, Columbus, OH 43215, 614-221-2734.
Black and White Men Together/Youngstown, Box 1346, Youngstown, OH 44501, 216-782-3483.
Cleveland Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays, 216-851-6624.
Living the Dream, 1277 Brookwood Pl., Columbus, OH 43209, 614-252-4226.
Men of All Colors Together/Cincinnati, Box 2205, Cincinnati, OH 45201-2205, 513-751-7659.

OREGON

Black Lesbians and Gays United, Portland, OR, 503-231-5034.

PENNSYLVANIA

ADODI/Philadelphia, Box 15755, Philadelphia, PA 19103-0755.
Black and White Men Together/Pittsburgh, 1007 Franklin Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15221.
Black and White Men Together/Philadelphia, Box 42257, Philadelphia, PA 19101.
Black Gay Archives, Box 30024, Philadelphia, PA 19103.
Blacks Educating Blacks about Sexual Health Issues (BEBASHI), 1528 Walnut St. #1414, Philadelphia, PA 19102, 215-546-4140.
Les Femmes Unies, Box 42833, Philadelphia, PA 19101, 215-657-5130.
Unity, Box 53617, Philadelphia, PA 19105, 215-642-8661, 215-545-6162.

TENNESSEE

Black and White Men Together/Memphis, Box 42157, Memphis, TN 38174, 901-726-1461.
Black Gay and Lesbian Alliance for Dignity, Box 1921, Memphis, TN 38101, 901-327-3943, 901-948-2345.

TEXAS

Cousins of the Heart, 2701 Reagan, Dallas, TX 75219, 214-526-6221.
Ebony Connection, 227 Congress Ave. #125, Austin, TX 78701; Box 1428, Austin, TX 78767, 512-326-8363.
Men of All Colors Together/Dallas, Box 190611, Dallas, TX 75219, 214-357-7898, 214-871-0819, 214-521-3146.

WASHINGTON

Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Youth of Color Discussion Group, 4620 S. Findlay, Seattle 98136, 206-632-0500, 206-322-7900.
Men of All Colors and Cultures Together, Box 12348, Seattle, WA 98111-4348, 206-325-9833.
People of Color AIDS/HIV Support Group, Seattle, WA, 206-322-AIDS.
People of Color Against AIDS Network, 1200 S. Jackson #25, Seattle, WA 98144, 206-322-7061.

WISCONSIN

Black and White Men Together/Milwaukee, Box 12292, Milwaukee, WI 53212, 414-265-8500.
Black Gay Consciousness Raising, Box 93694, Milwaukee, WI 53203, 414-933-2136.
Club Muse, Box 93694, Milwaukee, WI 53203, 414-291-0766 (Nate).

Nobody ever plans on getting AIDS. And that makes it all the more devastating.

But if fighting the most tragic and least understood killer in the world today seems more than you can bear alone, remember, there's someone out there who wants to help.

AIDS Project Los Angeles.

We're confronting AIDS on every side. But our first and foremost concern is for those who have Human Immunodeficiency Virus. They're the reason we initially set up our AIDS Hotline in 1982, and soon followed up with a buddy program and counseling.

Of course, people with AIDS need more than just companionship.

I've always said,

"If I ever got AIDS, I don't know what I'd do."

I was right.

They need to understand the disease. That's why we offer guidance on living with AIDS. Updates on insurance issues. Advice on faith and spiritual matters. And counseling on chemical dependencies and other addictive behaviors that often complicate an AIDS diagnosis.

Now as if the mental and physical drain of AIDS isn't enough, there's also the financial drain. So we provide essentials like food, clothing, and dental services to those in critical need.

Of course, the fight against AIDS isn't only between the disease and those who have it.

It's everyone's problem.

That's why we promote public awareness. Try to educate those who feel they don't need it. And demand that the Government of the United States approach AIDS just as it does every other major disease.

At AIDS Project Los Angeles, people discover courage and strength they didn't know they had. But before we can help, they have to do one simple thing.

Call 213-962-1600 and talk to someone who cares.

Having AIDS can be a frightening experience, which is all the more reason it shouldn't be a lonely experience.

AIDS PROJECT LOS ANGELES

AIDS Project Los Angeles would like to gratefully thank the following contributors. Concept and design by Chiat/Day/Mojo, Jim Weinstein, Doug Schumacher and Rich Bess. Production by David Nickel, Patti Rawlins, Tony Jenson, Joe's Type Shop and Reproduction Quality Services. Media Planning by Media Ranch.

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BLK MARKET

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gospel musicians wanted for African-American group. Need lead and bass guitar, keyboards and drum. Call 714-788-9490. (33)

Study of long-term lesbian couples. Been together 2 years or more? You and your partner will fill out an interesting questionnaire which takes under 40 minutes. Research results provided. To participate, call Deborah at 718-398-2248, collect or leave message. Your help is appreciated. (32)

Have bought a car from a car dealer that has advertised in the gay press? We want to ask a few questions. Any dealer. Any gay paper. Done over the phone. You can remain anonymous. Takes about 3 minutes of your time. Call 213-410-0808. Ask for Alan. (32)

For black or African-American gay and lesbian Christians who wish to correspond with others, Across the Miles has been created. This correspondence program will enable people to share what God is doing in their lives, spiritual discoveries made, questions regarding scriptural passages or living the life as a Christian, and prayer requests. This program is not a matchmaking service, but it is possible to meet others through correspondence. Across the Miles is a non-denominational enterprise, and is not affiliated with any established Christian church or religious organization. Those people interested in corresponding should send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Across the Miles, 5217 Hollywood Blvd. #401 Hollywood, CA 90027. Attn: James-Imani. All inquiries will be quickly replied, and all information is kept confidential. (32)

Wanted: Sierra Domino Newsletter back issues. Photocopies okay. Willing to pay reasonable fee, costs of photocopying and postage. Need issues 1, 3, 5 and 7, and any published after issue 22. Call Alan Bell at 213-410-0808, or write BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. (32)

Opportunity for financial freedom if you have the courage to call. 708-216-9719. 24 hour. (37)

SERVICES

Sex therapy. 800-660-1428. (35)

24-hour Crisis Hotline. Professional help is just a phone call away now! Depression, anxiety, AIDS-related mental/emotional problems. Other psychological problems. 1-800-444-9999. The Open Quest Institute. Serving our community since 1978. (33)

ORGANIZATIONS

Outreach for couples. Support the positive aspects of alternative lifestyle relationships thru social informative events held twice a month in San Diego. For more info, call Steve/Keith at 213-283-6243 or Kate/Kim at 213-475-4407. (35)

Hairy men/admirers. Bears/trappers. Nationwide explicit adlistings. Infopak $3.00: Hair, 59 W. 10th, NYC 10011. (34)

Lambda Alumni invites all UCLA and UC alumni, students, friends, and anyone who supports our efforts to provide a positive force for change at UCLA, to attend a general meeting on Aug. 20, 1991 at 7:30 p.m. This meeting is for all current members and any other interested gay men, lesbians, and friends. For more information and directions to the meeting location call 213-281-7927. Lambda Alumni was formed in May 1989 by UCLA's gay and lesbian alumni for the purpose of creating a conducive learning environment for gay men and lesbians on the UCLA campus and a forum for social interaction. These goals are achieved through activities such as academic scholarships, lecture series, and career networking. (33)

Singles club forming in San Francisco for African-American gay men who want to meet and date other African-American gay men. BLK Mailbox #140. (33)

EMPLOYMENT OFFERED

Accounting Assistant. Duties include data entry, typing, filing, phones, sorting mail and performing accounting research. Applicant must be knowledgeable of accounting principles and possess spreadsheet and word processing skills. Good organizational skills a plus. 1-2 years previous experience. Salary: $20,000 a year plus benefits. Submit resume to: Personnel, Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, 1213 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90038. The Center is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer. (33)

Advertising Salesperson to represent BLK. Work where your income reflects your energy and ability. Experience preferred, but will train the right person. Your own hours. Top commission paid. Women especially encouraged to apply. Call 213-410-0808. Or write BLK, Box 83912, L.A., CA 90083. (33)

Counselor. The nation's only lesbian and gay inpatient chemical dependency treatment center is seeking a skilled CD Counselor. The position requires a B.A. and ICDP certification or eligibility advantageous. If recovering, a minimum of 2 years of verifiable continuous sobriety is required. Must be sensitive to the needs of lesbian/gay patients. Qualified applications send resume to: Joseph Neisen, Program Director, Pride Institute, 14400 Martin Dr., Eden Prairie, MN 55344. (32)

Development and Legal Assistant. Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, the country's oldest and largest lesbian and gay legal organization, seeks a Development/Legal Assistant for its Los Angeles office. Lambda is a national organization whose work is primarily devoted to test-case litigation of legal issues affecting lesbians, gay men, and people living with AIDS. Since 1973, Lambda has fought to establish legal protection and rights for the lesbian and gay communities in cases as diverse as military discharge; employment, insurance and housing discrimination; child custody and visitation; relationship rights and domestic partnership benefits; access to health care and AIDS-related treatments; and First Amendment rights. Responsibilities: Assist Staff Attorney with management of office and legal program; coordinate West Coast fundraising and membership efforts; recruit and supervise law students for intake and referral; assist with publicity and public education activities; manage volunteer program; participate in community events and forums. Qualifications: Strong organizational, writing, and computer (WordPerfect) skills, a commitment to gay/lesbian rights, and experience with non-profits and fundraising. Please send resume by September 10, 1991 to: Mary Newcombe, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, 606 South Olive, #580, Los Angeles, CA 90014. Lambda is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer. Women, people of color and people with disabilities are encouraged to apply. (33)

Inpatient treatment center for lesbians and gay men with chemical dependency. Experience in chemical dependency or psychiatry preferred. Administrative experience desirable, but not essential. Must be sensitive to the needs of the lesbian and gay community. Responsible for supervision of staff, medical evaluations, detoxification, medical quality assurance. Send resume or call Brenda Griffin, Acting Executive Director, Pride Institute, 14400 Martin Dr., Eden Prairie, MN 55344. 800-547-7433. (32)

MD + ADM & RN Needed for new Pas. Com. Clinic. PT or retired OK. Bilingual. Call Dr. Jolly 213-664-5000. (32)

Photo Coordinator wanted to plan, schedule and keep track of photographers and models. Photographers also wanted to do covers and advertising shots. Excellent opportunity to add published work to your portfolio. Call 213-410-0808 or drop a note to BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. (33)

PLACES TO LIVE

Roommate to share 2 bedroom house in Ladera-View Heights area. Quiet neighborhood. Furnished bedroom, share rest of house and yard. Cable TV available. Prefer non-smoker professional responsible male or female 25-35. Rent $450/mo incl. util. Call 213-292-1590. (33)

CALLS FOR SUBMISSION

BMX Denver is seeking submissions of essays and poetry from black gay men as a response to the work of homophobic writer Francis Cress Welsing. Her book, "The Isis Reporter: Keys to the Colors," contains a chapter on the politics of "black male passivity," and give an incredulous theory on the origin of black male effeminization and the "source" of homosexuality. BMX-Denver plans to respond with a body of literature that could be published to counter Welsing's theories. Submissions will be accepted through Sept. 5 further information is available from Rajer at 303-837-1530. (33)

Trashy (but well-written) black gay male fiction wanted for raunchy new bimonthy magazine of black gay erotica. Tasteful work also accepted. Send us hot letters. Relive your exploits. Tell of your fantasies. Send with SASE to Editor, BLACKfire, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912(TF)

Venus Press is seeking single-panel cartoon, strips, and cartoon stories for New Dyke, a book anthology of cartoons by cartoons by, for and about lesbians. Cartoons can be fantasy, soap opera, humor, sci-fi, feminist satire/politics, explicit sex, stories about growing up, coming out, romance, aging, etc. Deadline Dec. 1, 1991. Send submissions and SASE to Venus Press, 7100 Blvd. E., Guttenberg, NJ 07093. Especially seeking cartoons by lesbians of color. (32)

The Pittsburgh International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival is accepting entries in film and video (8mm, 16mm, 35mm, 1/2", 3/4"). The deadline for entries is Sept. 10. All categories welcome. People of all colors strongly urged to enter. Please send properly labeled entries, inclusive filmography with personal statement, $15 entry fee, and return postage to: PILGFF, Box 9007, Pittsburgh, PA, 15224. Contact: Daniel Schott, 412-362-9462. (32)

Independent filmmaker Ann Alter and writer/researcher Laine Goldman are seeking your honeymoon tales for their new documentary film--horizontal mambo and other honeymoon tales. Funded in part by the Ohio Arts Council and the Center for New Television NEA Regional Fellowship program, this feature-length documentary chronicles the romantic passage of the honeymoon and investigative dynamics of a ritual rarely discussed in professional and/or private life. Co-directors/producers Alter and Goldman are asking individuals and couples to share their honeymoon tales from the traditional to the offbeat. Special attention is being made to contact lesbians and gay men, people of color, the physically challenged and seniors. Alter and Goldman also encourage "honeymoon specialists" to share their insights

and theories. Lesbian, gay men, people of color and seniors are encouraged to send inquiries, stories and suggestions to Horizontal Mambo Productions, Box 5657, Athens, OH 45701. (32)

The Multi Media Arts Gallery is looking for work by lesbian and gay photographers for a show that will be held at the gallery during Jan. 1992. The work may be documentary, experimental or fine art. Work that is considered sexist, racist or violent in any way will not be accepted. To have your work reviewed by the gallery director photographers should call 212-966-4080 to set up an appointment. (32)

Submissions are now being accepted for Short Fiction By Women, a new magazine publishing the finest literature by women writers. The magazine needs unpublished short stories, novellas and novel excerpts. All women writers, including lesbians and women of color, are encouraged to submit their work. Stories from both unpublished and published writers will be considered. Want top-quality, strong, original short fiction. A short biography/bibliography of each author will be included. Payment will be based on length and funds available. The magazine will own first serial rights only. Writers should submit one typed, double-spaced manuscript and include a SASE for return of manuscript. Send submissions to: Rachel Whalen, Editor, Short Fiction By Women, Box 1276, Stuyvesant Sta., New York, NY 10009. The first issue will be published in the fall of 1991. (32)

Sorority, a new quarterly magazine published by and for gay women, is seeking submissions on subjects of interest to gay women: informative articles, commentaries, profiles, interviews, travel pieces, health issues, short and long fiction, poetry, graphics, drawings, photographs, book reviews, film and video reviews, concert and event reviews, cartoons, drawings, puzzles, community listings and information about upcoming activities. Submissions from marginalized members of our community are particularly welcomed. Maximum word count is 7,500, but 5,000 preferred. Submissions on 3-1/2 in. disk in IBM WordPerfect with hard copy backup preferred, but can accept ASCII format on either 3-1/2 or 5-1/4 in. disks. Typed-only submissions also accepted. All artwork (including photographs) should be in black and white, should not exceed 7-1/4 x 4 in. with either vertical or horizontal layout, and should be camera-ready if possible. Reductions to fit the specified dimensions are acceptable. Include a S.A.S.E. No material that is racist, sexist, ageist, ableist or homophobic in content will be published. Sorority, 1170 Bay St. #110, Toronto, ON M5S 2B4, Canada. 416-462-6665. (32)

At the Crossroads, a new visual, performing and literary journal for women artists of African descent, is seeking submissions of written and visual art. Manuscripts of poetry, short stories, journal entries, experimental writing, radio plays, theatre, interviews, screenplays, transcribed performance pieces, reviews, essays and all other forms of creative and analytical writing are welcome. We want submissions of visual art, including line drawings, sketches, graphics, illustrations, photographs, murals, mixed media, printing, collage, sculpture, quilts, beadwork, textile art, etc. Send black and white photographs or photocopies of work. Do not send your original copy of art work. All submissions should be accompanied by a bio, brief statement about the work and any other relevant information. At the Crossroads is especially interested in receiving submissions from women in the Maritimes region and writers who have not yet been published. Manuscripts that do not arrive with a self-addressed, stamped envelope will not be returned, so send copies only. All photographs will be returned. Send to: Attn. Karen Augustine, At the Crossroads: A Journal for Women Artists of African Descent, Box 317, Sta. P, Toronto, ON M5S 2S8, Canada. (32)

Women with immune system and other systemic disorders--rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, scleroderma, endometriosis, chronic fatigue, multiple sclerosis, chronic asthma, allergies, environmental illness. Submissions sought for anthology of women's experiences living and coping with these illnesses. We are looking for inspiring, cautionary or everyday stories about how your illness has affected your work, family, children, partner, support system, sexuality, self-image, finances, sense of security, physical abilities, spirituality. How has your life changed? What have you learned? For information and Writer's Guidelines send self-addressed stamped envelope to: Canaries in the Mine, 75 Hartford St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Deadline: Dec. 1, 1991. Contributions by women of color especially welcome. (32)

An anthology of writing and artwork by Asian/Pacific lesbians is being compiled by Anne Mi Ok Bruining and Sharon Lim-Hing of Asian Lesbians of the East Coast. The genres are poetry, essays, short stories, autobiography and any artwork that can be reproduced in a book. Themes include but are not limited to the following: identity, sexuality, politics/social constructs, relationships, work/professions/careers, life cycles, disabilities and activities and interests. The deadline is Dec. 15, 1991, and submissions should be sent to Anne Mi Ok Bruining, 41 Shaw Rd., Little Compton, RI 02837. (32)

FOR SALE

Traditional African designs with an American flair. Handmade. Write ANKH Enterprises, African Clothiers, Box 46085, Los Angeles, CA 90046. (35)

Watch five hot black men—each new to video—in solo jackoff. Do it while they do it. Spurt when they spurt. Full length 90 minutes. Rated XXX. Specify VHS or Beta. State and sign that you are over 21. We can send to street addresses only. No P.O. boxes. $29.95 plus $3.05 shipping and handling. Check, money order, Visa, M.C. or Amex. No cash. Nubian Video, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90046. (33)

Skins, the fanzine for kinky uncut men. Free ads. Sample copy: $4 and statement of age. CB&V, Box 97694, Las Vegas, NV 89193. (39)

Exclusively created for black skin: based on ancient Egyptian formulas of rejuvenation our products are made from state of the art natural ingredients. Send $15 for samples and product list to: Temptations! Box 1227, New York, NY 10018. (32)

Gay magazines. Pack of 6 hot used magazines. Just $15. P&H, Inc. Send check or M.O. to Island Marketing, 127 S. Shore Dr., Island Lake, IL 60042, State you are 21. (37)

BLK T-shirts, satin jackets, baseball caps, sweatshirts, key tags, back issues, note cards, etc. now available mail order. Write: BLK Mail and Femail Store Catalog, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. Or call 800-TRUE-BLK, anytime 24 hours a day, seven days a week. (TF)

MASSEURS

Muscular black ex-marine with strong, sensual talented hands will relieve you of any and all stress, tension, etc. Try me once and you'll be back! Discount to seniors. Friendly service. Dick 619-294-3589 for appt. (34)

Attractive, well-built guy (29, 5'7", 140#), experienced, offers deep thorough relaxing massage to other in-shape guys by candlelight, table, $40 in West Hollywood, $? out. Greg, 213-650-6265. Calls verified. (E)

Randy Cochran. 818-997-3776. L.A.'s hot top black studman. Hung huge, yet versatile. 28, 5'9", 160 lbs., with a tight smooth body. 24-hour, in-out sessions. $125-$200/hr. Video titles include "Black Attack," "Heatwaves," "Black Force" and many more. Visits are in person...Not associated with 976-WOLF. Safe sex okay. (E)

The Real McCoy. Very handsome Italian professional, 29, great body, offers custom-tailored 5-star bodywork to the discerning man. Atmosphere, style, technique and more. Quite simply...the best! 213-288-6800. (E)

DATING SERVICES

Dating service specializing in matching compatible lesbians, gay men, HIV+ men. $40/six months, $60/full year. Unlimited introductions. Matches based on profile, feedback, psychological research on compatibility, personal touch. License: Serving out of Southern California. Chums Introduction Network Service, Inc. 213-461-5664 or 800-231-CHUMS. (33)

WOMEN'S PERSONALS

Oakland California lesbian, 33, spiritual, intelligent, seeks friendships and correspondences of class and distinction. BLK Mailbox #145. (33)

Bi-black male seeking hard body, very dark, bi-black females for safe, sexual, no drug, no smoking, highly sexual encounters with myself and others. Call James, 213-969-4789. (33)

SBM, 40, very dominant arty type, likes straight, submissive bi-ladies, lesbians. No phonies, drugs. I'm hot and kinky. Hurry! BLK Mailbox #124. (E)

Hampton Roads, Virginia area. Single, black bisexual female, professional, 31, in search of feminine lesbian or bi-female for relationship varied interests. No fats, drugs, or marrieds. Photo and note appreciated to BLK Mailbox #121. (E)

Black woman, honest, clean, intelligent, professional, financially secure, optimistic, adventurous, spiritual, lesbian! Send descriptive letter, photo, etc. San Diego. BLK Mailbox #139. (32)

GBF, 25, graduate student, eclectic interests, multi-talented, new to the life, looking to connect with other GBFs from all over, especially Atlanta, Toledo/Detroit, D.C. for friendship and a sense of community. Will answer all. BLK Mailbox #132. (E)

BF, 26, student, not looking for romance through this ad. However, I would like to exchange postcards, short notes or long letters with women from all over. I live in Detroit. BLK Mailbox #107. (E)

Soulful, diamond in the raw, 19, African-American ISO lasting friendships with multi-cultured, positive lesbian sisters USA/abroad (18-?). Will answer all. Maria, 329 Childress Lane, Flora, MS 39071-9740. (E)

Fluffy, feminine, early 40s, fun-loving, witty, sensitive, romantic, who appreciates nature, intimacy, looking for independent butch. I am 5'7½", sexy, plump. Seek friendship first. Who knows what can happen? BLK Mailbox #115. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS INTERNATIONAL

Black Is Beautiful. Young man, 36, 5'10", 120#, blond, blue eyes, calm, serious, seeks very strong black bodybuilder. Write with photo: Lambert Pirotte, 43, rue Coplay, 4020 Wandre, Belgium. (33)

German man, 44, 170, seeks black man (top) for friendship. Letter, photo to Box 6526, D-7500 Karlsruhe 1, West Germany. (36)

Black man, 26, seeks penpals. Kofi, Box 482, Dansoman Est. Accra, Ghana, West Africa. (35)

GWM, teddy-bear, seeks dominant black male tops for intimate friendship and fun. Doug, #103-4800 Arbutus, Vancouver, BC V6J 4A5. 604-263-3991. (TF)

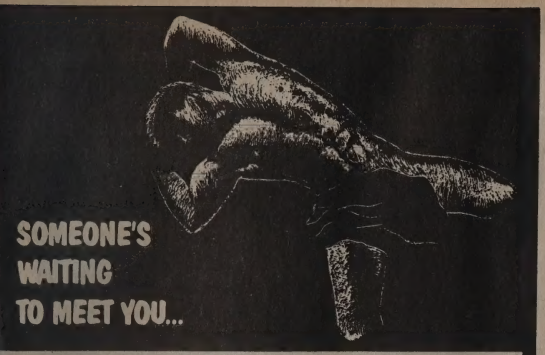
MEN'S PERSONALS—AZ

GWM, 62, bottom, 1651 E. Glenn #117, Tucson 85719. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—CA

Northern California

HBM, 36, 6'1", 160#, professional, swimmer's build, in good health, HIV-, romantic



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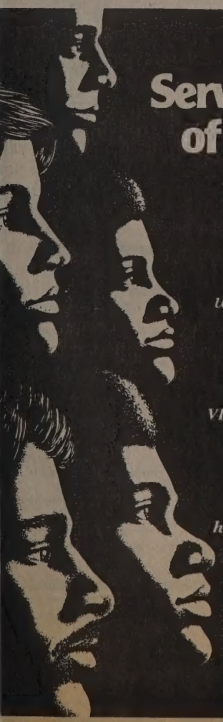

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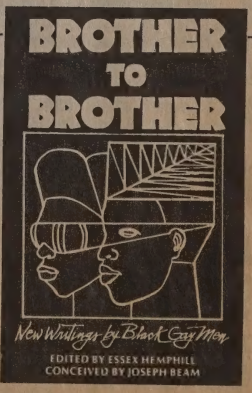
DIRECTOR

Black gay men are coming home

After the death of *In the Life* editor Joseph Beam, activist and poet Essex Hemphill carried on in his footsteps with this new anthology of fiction, essays, and poetry by black gay men. Contributors include Assoto Saint, Craig G. Harris, Melvin Dixon, Marlon Riggs, and many newer writers.



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■ **Mailbox number and forwarding service.** You may have the replies to your *personal or employment offered ad* sent to a BLK Mailbox for $7 per month. Replies are forwarded to you in a plain envelope once a week, for six weeks after your ad appears. Mail may not be picked up in person.

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■ Deadline: First Friday of the month of publication.

■ Ads received after deadline will appear in the following issue.

■ Open account billing available on approved credit. Terms: Net 10 EOM. Minimum charge is $15. *Credit must be approved in advance.*

■ **Rules and regulations.** *A word is any group of letters or numbers with a space on either side of it.* Free ads may run a maximum of three times, then must be renewed. We reserve the right to reject, rewrite or edit ads including those that advertise or solicit sexual acts considered unsafe by current AIDS criteria. Telephone numbers in ads must be verified prior to publication at a charge of $3 (within California $1). If a number has been previously verified by BLK, attach an ad containing the number to your new ad. Advertiser's complete name, address and authorizing signature must accompany ad. This information is confidential and will not appear in your ad.

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■ Completely free ads may only be placed by mail.

■ Ads that are not completely free may be paid by check, Visa, MasterCard or American Express. Do not send cash.

■ Send to: BLK Classifieds, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912.

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■ Minimum for credit card billing is $15 whether by phone or by mail.

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■ **Print clearly what you want to appear in your ad. Use a separate sheet if you need more space.**

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BLK Mailbox at $7 per month	$_____
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and fun-loving. Wishes to meet or correspond with masculine Latino, P.R., Asian, black, 30-?, for friendship and possible relationship. No drugs, fats, fems. BLK Mailbox #144. (33)

GWM, 37, blonde, blue, muscular, bottom, wants GBM, dominant, top, into scenes. Phone sex okay. 1800 Market #230, San Francisco, 94102. 415-775-4919. (33)

TV wanted. Tony, 5337 College #516, Oakland, CA 94618. (35)

Emmette Mitchell, C-22649, C-7-110. Box 29, Represa, CA 95671. (35)

Daytime BJ for masculine, firm, drug-free, HIV- males. Tenderness. Respect expected. Men of color are special treats. Phone and photo appreciated. R.B., Box 21633, Concord, CA 94521. (34)

BM, 41, 5'8", 145, slim attractive, health-conscious, wants to pen-pal with other slim health-conscious black males around the same age. BLK Mailbox #141. (35)

WM, new to East Bay, 43, 185, 6'3", HIV+, non-smoker. Want to meet BM for friendship, love, and/or versatile safe sex. Box 56260, Hayward, CA 94545. (32)

Slender white bottom seeks hung GBM. Oakland area. Box 5294, Pleasanton, CA 94566. (34)

Attractive, muscular black man, 35, 5'11", 220, seeking other big, well-built men of any race between 20-50. French active/passive, J/O, oral body worship. Send letter with photo to 1221 Broadway, Plaza Level #13-131, Oakland, CA 94612. No fems, fats or phonies. (34)

GBM, 33, bottom, seeks top bi or GBM, discreet, bright. Box 70571, Oakland, CA 94612. (33)

San Diego Area

WM, 42, with long tongue and rim chairs seeks BM with bubble butt! Write to Box 3880, Cathedral City, CA 92235. (42)

Attractive black male 39, active French, passive Greek, seeks intelligent, hung top bud for serious relationship and fun. 619-291-1341. (40)

Latin professional male seeks masculine top, sincere, honest, non-bar type, no drugs, vices, non-smoker, desires quality long-lasting relationship. 619-295-4531. (35)

You: Hot top GBM. Me: Young Latino. 619-274-0507. (35)

Happy, healthy, and adventurous GBM, seeking sincere monogamous relationship with same. Serious replys only. Send photo with intro letter and phone number if interested. BLK Mailbox #136. (32)

New GBM to desert area. Seeking new friends possibly more. Call Bob, 619-329-4122. (32)

Are you 300 lbs., over 40, any color, reliable friend in San Diego and wish to meet sincere Italian 68, slender, endowed (6"), healthy and educated! Call 619-291-8966. (32)

White man seeks extra hung top. Tom, 619-262-6046. (34)

White hunk, 30, exhibitionist, seeks same. Box 33361 San Diego, CA 92163. (34)

BiBM seeks surfer. Box 126234, San Diego 92112. (35)

Los Angeles Area

Gay black Hispanic male, 41, ostensibly 28, into art and design, foreign films, jazz, and classical music. Attractive, intelligent, and very creative. Multi-faceted and multilingual. Cultivated yet free spirited. Caring and sincere. BLK Mailbox #143. (33)

Masculine black male, 32, 6'0", 150 lbs., seeks masculine, muscular types for friendship and J/O. Any race. No drugs. Robert, Box 1188, South Gate, CA 90280. (33)

BM, 6', 190, attractive, health conscious, romantic, honest, good sense of humor, seeks same, U. no tooth picks pls. fat or fem. 213-931-3412. (33)

Bi cowboy, blonde, goodlooking, hot bubblebutt, masculine, seeks, bi black or any race bodybuilder, macho, jock type. Military gay men okay. To ride this colt. Buck, 213-438-1421. (33)

Grateful, attractive, healthy HIV+, GM, 30s, seeking man of character, warmth, humor and spiritual foundation. Into friends, family, music, movies, dancing, outdoors, sports, sober living, world cultures and unity. RU2? Please write to M.K., Box 661011, L.A. 90066. (34)

BM, HIV- like older WM friends. 2322 Redondo Blvd., L.A. 90016. (35)

Attractive GBM, HIV+, healthy, 5'7", 35, warm, loving and extremely affectionate, seeking a dominant (top)/masculine GBM, well endowed, 6'2" or taller, who enjoys romance, walks on the beach, movies, Bid Whist. and Spades, exercising together and fun times. I'm seeking a serious 1-1 partnership or relationship. If you are serious about spending quality time together, call Mikey 213-508-6220, leave your name and number and I'll call you back. All calls answered. Serious callers only please! (35)

Black L.A. racewalker attending Portland Marathon. Can other runners/racewalkers suggest inexpensive travel/accomodations? 213-882-4987. (33)

GBM: Mid 20's, 6ft, 165lbs, top, HIV-, educated, financially secure, masculine. Seeks similar GWM. Must be under 30, relationship-oriented (a must). No fats/fems/drugs. Rob, 4102 E. 7th St. #632, Long Beach, CA 90804. (33)

This non-stereotype blond Italian, 5'2", green eyes, 129 lbs., seeks very attractive and sensual G-Boy who is interested in more than just a one night. Versatile a plus. Please no obese or effeminate. If interested, call Sandro at 213-978-4018. (33)

Venice Beach. Half Japanese male seeks sincere relationship oriented black male for possibilities. Uncomplicated lifestyles and conversation appreciated. 213-399-2953. (33)

Lets rub until we cum. 213-852-0219. Arian. (35)

Just wanna have fun and beyond. Bi-BM wants to meet women and men. Ken. 213-465-8968. Serious only. (32)

Handsome black man, 35, 195#, well-built, who likes to workout with weights and jog on a daily basis, would like to meet honest, sincere person for friendship, white or hispanic, who loves the outdoors and some sports. Rod, 213-938-2004 before 11 p.m. (34)

Very hot butch blond bottom bodybuilder, 33, 5'6", 145, hot throat and ass, seeks dominant top black man. BLK Mailbox #137. (32)

GWM, 40s, seeks (1) super hung blk top man and (1) super hung blk bottom man for hot and safe 3-way sex. Write to Allen, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd. #109-332, West Hollywood, CA 90045. (34)

GBM wanted. Any age. For loving companionship, relationship. Me: GWM 50s, 6', 179 lbs., affectionate, HIV-. Will, 818-362-2022. (33)

If you could date an athletic attractive man, 24, you'd want to do it, correct? If polite and under 25, introduce yourself with a note! Box 3516 Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90274. (33)

Hot P.R. seeking one in-shape butch blk/Latin hung X-thick. Me: 37, 135#, 5'6". Willie, 213-657-2539. (34)

Fat GBM, 18-30, 250+# sought by GWM. R.A.S., Box 4013 Chatsworth, CA 91313-4013. (36)

Black bodyguard and companion wanted by wealthy GWM, 44, 200#, 8" for night time protection and pleasure on hilltop estate. Guard must be over 6', in shape, (BB pref.) and hung. Guest house, vehicle and salary to right person. Daytimes free. Photo and letter to Guard, Box 91744, City of Industry, CA 91715. (32)

Couple looking safe sex. Box 19543, LAX 90019-0543. (34)

Sexy Oriental TV, 27, wants to collect white jockey shorts. Picture and jockey is a must. You won't be disappointed. BLK Mailbox #138. (32)

Black queen, 38, tits, seeks slender light-skinned black man, thick dick, who is single parent, for dating and romance. I'm into safe sex. Call Nina at 213-480-0008. Please no fats. Must be a masculine gay man who is into queens or must be a bisexual man. Please do not call if you are not into queens. (32)

If you're blk and top man, enjoy getting sucked, well hung and horny, call Jim 818-344-1913. No calls on Sat. (32)

Satisfies loving. HIV- dad. Box 5950-243, Orange 92667. (35)

If you're GBM with a big cock, call Alex 818-896-8890. blond wants to please you. (34)

WM, 33, handsome, will lick young straight smooth black butts anytime and all the time! Large stocky butch guys only. Box 46841, Los Angeles 90046. (32)

Black male to meet hung male days. O.C.C., Box 19002, L.A. 90019. (34)

If you'd like to meet a warm, friendly, goodlooking, 6'1", 180#, 34 year old, GR/P, masculine, relationship minded GWM then write to Box 691943, Los Angeles, California 90069. You should be masculine, 28 to 40 years, top, and willing to take things slow and easy. No drugs please. (32)

Black is sexy and that's what I like. I'm a shy Latino. Call me. Richard, 213-465-8968. (32)

GBM, 28, 6', 165, attractive, light-skinned fun, discreet, given up on finding good solid lover relationship, seeking safe fun with attractive straight/married types for periodic visits. Prefer black, however other races are welcome. Call Steven in Glendale at 818-548-9539. No fats, fems or drugs. (32)

Stunning attractive GBM seeks WM for great times. Robert, 213-937-7622. (34)

Hot white guy to sucks black studs in leather only. R.W., 12021 Wilshire Blvd. ##899, Los Angeles, CA 90025. Photo. (32)

Commitment and values: B/M, 38, 5'11", 170, G/P seeks an affectionate tall G/A white or black top man 40-55 who likes 1-to-1, homelife, mountains and stability. Mel, Box 71247, L.A. 90071, 213-656-0528 ext. 22. (34)

Hot, friendly white guy with tight pussy ass needs it regularly/safely spread, filled and deep slow pumped by condomed boyfriend. Richie, Box 5791 Glendale, CA 91221-5791. (32)

Attractive black male, 5'10", 190 pounds, muscle-toned body, 34 years of age, seeks attractive, white male of the same stature or taller for outdoor fun, adventure, and quiet cozy evenings. No j/o calls. Relationship-oriented only. Call before 11 p.m. Ask for Biff. 213-931-3637. (32)

GWM, 25, seeks gay black or Hispanic male, under 30 years old, for dating, friendship and fun. Must have good sense of humor and positive outlook on life. Honesty, stability and romance are also important qualities. BLK Mailbox #142. (32)

Tall, affectionate black male, 33, muscular, "runner's build," seeks beefy, non-smoking white male weightlifter, 28-50, for cuddling. Brion, 929 S. Lake, Los Angeles, CA 90006. (32)

Football player, beefy weightlifter wanted. U—love to cuddle. I—love to massage. We—need to belong. Black man, 41, 5'9", 180, workout. Box 29037, Los Angeles, CA 90029. (32)

Sexy French muscular bodybuilder, 30, 5'10", 175 bubblebutt, green-blue eyes, longs for tall, massive, super muscular, thick, bodybuilder over 200 lbs., any race, for friendship and safe fun. Am discreet, sophisticated. 213-656-2942. (33)

GBM, 41, 5'11", 147, beard & moustache seeks GWM for sincere correspondence. All letters answered. Sumari, Box 69265, Los Angeles, CA 90069. (E)

Discreet professional black male, a body worshipper, seeks muscular, chubby, husky, bodybuilder type men with super, super big thighs & super, super big bubble butt for friendship. 213-933-3098. (E)

Commitment and values: B/M, 38, 5'11",

170, G/P seeks an affectionate tall G/A white or black top man 40-55 who likes 1-to-1, homelife, mountains and stability. Mel, Box 712427, Los Angeles, CA 90071. 213-656-0258 ext. 22. (34)

Sincere, slender black male artist seeks handsome, very aggressive, versatile, sincere, homo erectus, any race. No chubbies, queens or losers. Call 213-661-1431. (33)

Gay male, 37, 5'9", 165 lbs., blue eyes, into classic film, music, sunset walks at the beach, seeks intelligent, aware individual for mutually-fulfilling companionship. Please call Bruce at 213-338-9695. (33)

MEN'S PERSONALS—CO

Caribbean man wants tops with thick dicks. Box 18714, Denver, CO 80218. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—CT

Congenial white male ISO black male. Box 284, Hartford, Connecticut 06141-0284. (TF)

MEN'S PERSONALS—DC

Gay black male, 5'10", 192 pounds, straight-appearing, romantic, would like to meet Canadian or European gay, white of similar characteristics. Must be straight-appearing, stocky or muscular. Will visit Europe this fall. Box 15331, Washington, DC 20003. (32)

GWM seeks GBM hung huge. 202-483-3693. (E)

Single African-American male 26, 5'9" slender, light complexioned, masculine, healthy and intelligent and very conscious. Seeking friendship and correspondence with intelligent serious minded, independent masculine, light skin brother or Puerto Rican brother age 20-29. Let's write with photos and letters to Eric, Box 39215, Washington, D.C. 20016. Peace brother. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—FL

Blk/M, 24, wants to meet males 18-30. I'm 24, 5'5", 170, 8". Tampa and other Florida males write Box 172551, Tampa, FL 33672. (35)

GWM, 39, 5'9", 144, mature, educated, affectionate, seeks non-smoking men of similar age and any race. John, Box 2354, Winter Haven, FL 33883. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—GA

GBM 30 195 seeks J/O partner GBM 24-30. Box 54894, Atlanta, GA 30308. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—HI

You are top, hung, HIV+ and want to enjoy life. Loving home waiting for you in Hawaii. Write: Boxholder, Box 75704, Honolulu, HI 96836. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—IL

Health care provider seeking some special individual to care for me and about me. I'm GBM and a very sweet person to know! Seeking possible long-term relationship accompanied by eurphoric passion. Legal age to 50. Just be fantastic. I fantasize Bo Jackson and Michael Jordan types, especially with brains. I'm a health conscious, realistic individual. Basically quiet—a homebody—not domestic. I love life and people as much as they allow me to. Just one fall back, I have to work at living positively with an HIV+ status. It takes a special person not to turn the other way. Could you be him? If so, contact me. Let's talk. Occupant, c/o Ean C., Box 578323, Chicago, IL 60657-8323. (35)

Black Bi male, 5'9", 155 lbs., masculine, muscular, X-Marine, 29, 8½ and thick. Seeks Blk or Hispanic right guy, non-fat, non-fem. Me: versatile w/foot fetish. Box 06283, Chicago, IL 60606-0283. (34)

GBM, 28, just came out, desire new friends. Age, race unimportant. Sincerity is. Photo requested, not necessary. Will answer all replies. Gene, Box 2873, Carbondale, IL 62902. (33)

Gay white male seeks gay black male, 30s, in Chicago, Illinois. 312-525-1267. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—KY

Gay white male, 29, looking for sincere blacks for possible relationship. Can relocate anywhere upon release. James Fitzgerald #98743, Northpoint Training Center, Box 479, Burgin, KY 40310. (32)

MEN'S PERSONALS—LA

GWM, 47, 6', 175, non-smoker, moustache, hairy chest, enjoys reading, traveling, movies and dining out. Seeking masculine male, 35-50, with similar interests for friendship and more. Please send letter and photo to Dick, Box 15078, New Orleans, LA 70175. All replies answered. (33)

Gay black father seeks friendship/relationship with other gay fathers black or white or those who appreciate children who have reached adolescent age. I am a warm sensitive romantic in search of others who are family-oriented. Write Ly-Leh, Box 144, Evergreen, LA 71333. (E)

Black male, seeking bi-couples, TVs, TSs, drag queens, crossdressers, any race, any shape, ages 21 to 55, for friendship, kinky times, swinging. Am clean and discreet. Like all cultures. Motel meetings in Natchez, Mississippi, Vidalia, Louisiana, Ferriday, Louisiana area. Call anytime day or night. 318-339-9269. C.B., Box 941, Jonesville, LA 71343. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MD

Nice guy seeks same for friendship. This 50-year-old straight-acting WM is looking for a very masculine BM. Pleasant disposition, positive outlook and stability are important to me. Blue collar, thick endowment and trim build are pluses. Send detailed letter and photo of yourself to: BLK Mailbox #118 or call 301-779-6738. Pen pals welcome. Visitors to D.C. should call in advance of arrival. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MA

WM, 53, seeks thin, romantic, clean black male in Boston. Call 617-524-0417. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MI

WM, 32, 5'7", 155#, would like to meet BM for wild and freaky times. I am into leather and have a bubble butt. You must also! Possibilities for a relationship. No J/O calls. 313-527-2965. (35)

Professional masculine GBM, 31, 6'2", 190#, HIV+, enjoy running, skiing, cooking and still dream about romance. Frustrated with the Detroit scene. I would like to meet/correspond with other masculine (not into roles) HIV+, GLatin/GB males for friendship and maybe more. I do not use drugs/smoke. Write. There is nothing to loose, but everything to gain. BLK Mailbox #135. (33)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MS

Handsome Samson. Brent, Unit 28, #44219 Parchman, MS. (34)

Sex god. Butler, Unit 28, #45779 Parchman, MS. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NV

GWM, 35+, 5'10", 155#, G/P, F/A, masculine, stable, multifaceted, seeks loving relationship with sincere successful GBM having similar goals and interests. Travel can be arranged. Call Mike directly. 702-792-6737. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NJ

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White male, 32, 160, brown hair, blue eyes, seeking young males for friends/sexual partners. Prefer cute, slim, smooth, cut, clean-shaven boyish Northern European, black and Southeast Asians. Like music, philosophy, science, health food. Am honest, sensitive, sincere. Live-in possible. No V.D., kinky/slutty types. Photo a must (preferably revealing)! Ron, Box 307, Irvington, NJ 07111-1940. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NY

Slim WM, 49, dad/top, seeks FA son/bottom. Box 3042, NYC 10008. (33)

Masculine WM, 41, seeks top BM. BLK Mailbox #134. (32)

White professional seeks black man Smith, 118 Second St., Albany, 12210.(E

GWM, 42, 5'1", 125 lbs, brown hair, blu eyes, eyeglasses, considered cute. Ciga rettes, wine, dancing, antiques, movies rock, classical, quiet nights at home. Ma ture, responsible, warm, gentle, loving Seek black male 40+, same attributes fo friendship and possibly more. Rochester N.Y. area. Serious replies only, send pho to. BLK Mailbox #133 (E

Lean, muscular, GBM, top, 52, 6', 155 seeks fit, muscular, intelligent bottoms into camping, hiking, nudism, travel, a ages/races. J. Tree, Box 161, S.I., N 10304. (E

MEN'S PERSONALS—OH

W/M 26, smooth bottom. Sami Cripple R138659, Box 120 Lebanon, OH 45036. (34

MEN'S PERSONALS—OK

Goodlooking GBM. Raibon #33325-004 Box 1500, El Reno, OK 78067. (35

MEN'S PERSONALS—SC

Attractive, masculine, GBM, 25, would like to meet GBM from everywhere who could teach an inexperienced ex-prisoner of guil about being gay. The joy of gay sex! Am very eager to learn. Send your hottes letters and nude photos. In return you'll ge mine. M.T., Box 12143, Cola, South Caro lina. No fems, please! (E

MEN'S PERSONALS—TX

Seeking GBM. Attractive GWM, 31, 6'1" 200 lbs., seeks blk male for friendship love and more. Call or write Dennis Seay, Box 710048, Houston, TX 77271. 713-777-8342. (33

GWM, 55, 5'8", 150, attractive Utah professional, seeks GBM or Latin athlete, non-smoker, non-drinker, non-drug user. If you fit this description and are seriously looking for a quality one-one relationship, call 801-364-2523. (32

MEN'S PERSONALS—VA

Suck me. Balsom, Box 430, Dillwyn, VA 23936. (35

GWM, 55, 160#, 5'9", stable, sane, secure, non-smoker/drinker, HIV negative, seeks similar black male under 40 years old, non-obese for friendship, good times, mutual pleasures and possible relationship. Box 23093, Alexandria, VA 22304. (34

MEN'S PERSONALS—WA

GWM, Christian desires GBM friendship. B.H., Box 3263, Seattle, WA 98144. (34

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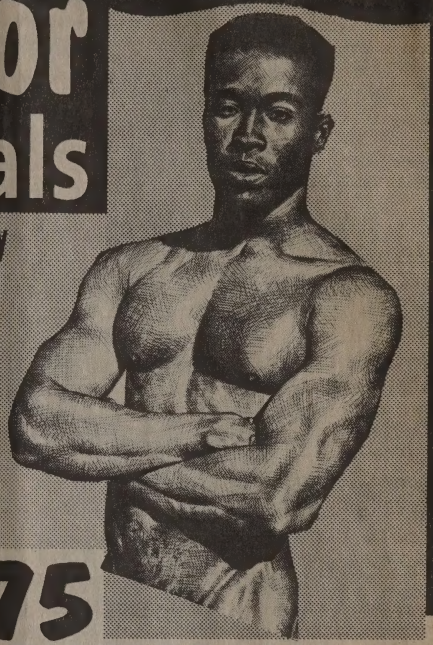

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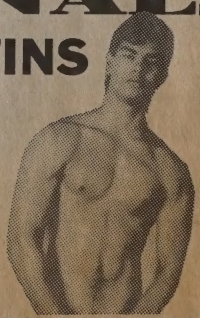

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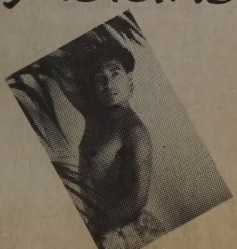

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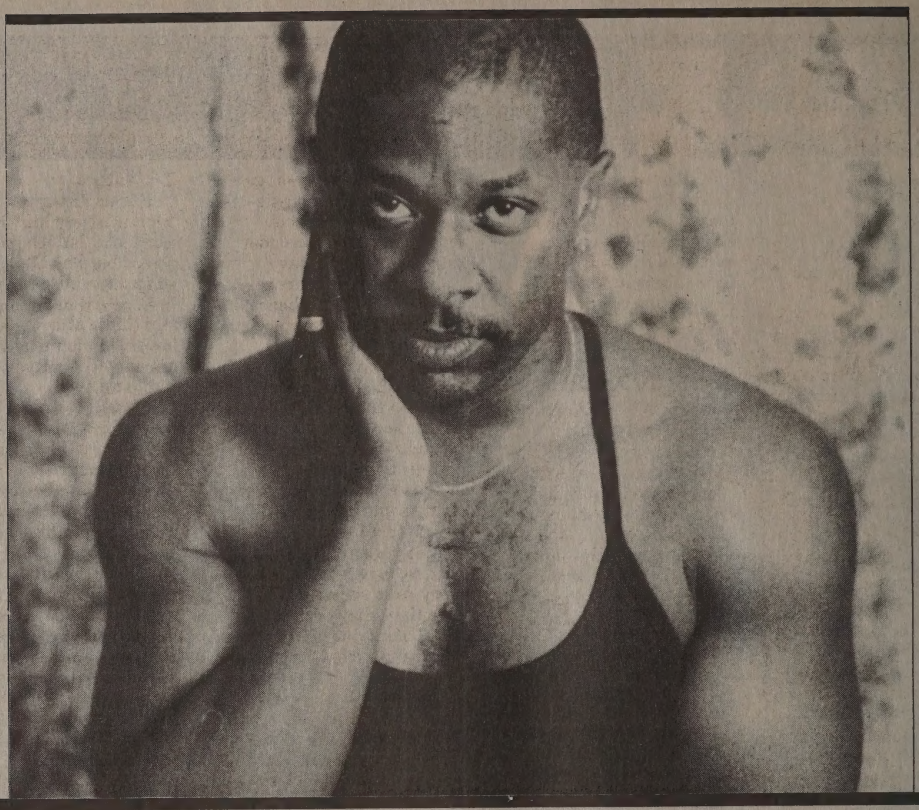
Whole No. 27
February 1991

Gospel Legend James Cleveland Is Called to That Mass Choir in the Sky



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Word Up

News of the Outrageous, the Amusing, the Pathetic and the Unexpected by Leon Miller

Whitney and 'That Person'

Prologue. You know how folks who are not out talk when straight folks are around. Making every circumloquitous attempt to avoid references to gender, more natural phrases like "she does the cooking" or "he does the cooking" come out as "*they* do the cooking." End of prologue.

This month's Whitney Houston item is not really an I-am-not-gay quote. It's an it's-none-of-your-business quote, and comes to us courtesy of Chicago *Outlines*.

On Nov. 15, Mary Hart interviewed Whitney for *Entertainment Tonight*, saying, "You know when you're out there and as expressive as you are about your life and about yourself, people are going to not only take a look and maybe criticize your music, but they're going to take a look at your personal life. How do you deal with the tabloid headlines?"

Houston responded, "Ya know, they say it goes along with the territory. I don't believe it. I don't believe that whom I'm sleeping with and who I'm kissing or who I'm not kissing has anything to do with anybody but me and *that person*, and that's part of my life I'd like to keep. You know, they have everything else and even if they don't know they're gonna make it up anyway. So it doesn't matter."

Actually, Whitney is right. All this really is a matter between her and "that person." I report it not to out her, something of which I generally disapprove. I keep bringing it up because she keeps bringing it up.

This brings the Houston denial count to seven. Previous denials have appeared in *Time, Ladies Home Journal, Life, Fame, Essence* and *USA Today*.

Tutu: Yes Yes

South African Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu recently spoke to the national legislative body of the United Church of Canada about lesbian and gay priests.

"For myself," he said, "I would say that it would be a gross injustice to exclude people from becoming ordained ministers on the grounds of sexual orientation."

Jesse Jackson Affirms Support

Rev. Jesse Jackson's support of lesbian and gay rights has never been more clear than in the piece he contributed to the *Advocate*'s Black History Month issue.

"As citizens of this country, lesbians and gay men must be afforded all the rights that the Constitution provides," the U.S. senator-elect for the District of Columbia wrote. "I strongly support the enactment of federal gay rights legislation, calling for an end to discrimination based on sexual orientation. Support for lesbian and gay civil rights must be viewed not in the context of the Bible or the Koran but in the context of the Constitution. The right to privacy must also be guaranteed. No government has the right to regulate the private sexual behavior of consenting adults...

"I have often been asked why I, as a non-gay person, have been insistent that the rainbow coalition have a lavender stripe and why I have advocated gay rights regardless of the audience. The answer is simple. There are two reasons. First, I affirm the members of the human family because that is morally right. Second, my sense of community is inspired by my grandmother's quilt. Each patch was beautiful in its own right, and all the patches were of different colors and materials and textures. Yet, alone, they were scraps. Sewn together, they formed a most wondrous and at the same time most functional quilt.

"The constituencies of the have-nots of this country are analogous to the patches of the quilt. In coalition, we become the majority and victory is possible. Alone, we face an uncertain tomorrow. Together, we can forge a bright future."

Jackson's statement also supported lesbian and gay child custody and progressive AIDS policies.

Arsenio Talks, a Little

The December *Ebony*, includes an article with the eye-popping title, "Arsenio Hall Talks about His Feuds with Roseanne and Madonna and the Rumors about Him and Eddie."

The Barr feud began, he says, with fat jokes he did about the rotund celebrity.

She retaliated by publicly questioning his sexuality, saying that there had been great comedy teams in the world: Lucy and Ricky, George and Gracie, and Arsenio and Jim Nabors.

But as Arsenio said, "that is a very hip...Hollywood joke." Much more accessible was Madonna's suggestion, also reported in *Ebony*, that Arsenio and Eddie Murphy were lovers. Madonna also dis'd his hair which really left him pis'd.

"First, Madonna, I will never have to work for you because I have as much money as you have," he says. "Number two, I've seen your dancers and ...I'm nothing like them. They work for you. I work with you. Point number three is you wanted to be black when you were little but you are not black, so don't try to understand blackness. It is not your place to dictate black hair care or fashion. You have borrowed our sound but not our sensibilities, so don't make an attempt to tell me how I should look."

I like to think Arsenio punctuated that with two snaps any way he wanted.

The rumor about him and Eddie that the article purports to talk about. Not one word of denial. I guess he's been talking to Whitney.

Seeing Reality

In a song called "Pimpin' Ain't Easy," rapper Big Daddy Kane told us, "The Big Daddy law is anti-faggot. That means no homosexuality. What's in my pants will make you see reality."

Come this summer, we might get to see what he calls reality when Big D bares it for *Playgirl* magazine. A spokesperson for the mag confirmed that he would appear in a June 1991 photo layout, but could not confirm frontal nudity. If this is a trend, I suggest Ice-T, next.

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ON THE COVER: Rev. James Cleveland

BLK MAIL

Fred Berg Gets a Lesson in History

Dear Editor:

It was appalling to read the letter by Fred Berg, in the January 1991 BLK mail in response to "Black Indentity and White Expectations" [BLK, December 1990]. It really should not be surprising to anyone that whites like Fred Berg view blacks in such a distasteful manner; we see evidence of it everyday. I guess it's somewhat shocking to see it expressed so blatantly and clearly. As I read further and further, still in a state of disbelief, it took a lot of effort to keep from becoming really angry. After all, this type of thinking has had a detrimental effect on people of color in all parts of the world. This myth of white superiority provided justification for slavery and western imperialism.

Mr. Berg's comments reflect a deplorable state of ignorance but are characteristic of racist doctrine being propagated during the 19th and early part of the 20th century. Such preposterous lies have been so intricately woven into the fabric of educational curriculum on all levels that most whites do not even question their veracity. Mr. Berg is such an example. The assertions in his letter epitomize the Caucasian that so desperately need a basis for self-esteem that even lies are acceptable to the end. In fact, these very lies form the basis for the system of racism that seeks to exclude African-Americans, Native Americans and Hispanics from their equitable share of economic and psychosocial benefits based on the fallacy that they have not contributed to the progress of civilization.

It would take me volumes to adequately address all of the false claims Mr. Berg makes. I must resist the urge and restrict my focus. The only way to cure ignorance is with education. I will provide the framework for and academic investigation and I challenge Mr. Berg to pursue these leads. At the same time, I know that he probably won't do this because "ignorance is bliss," and as I've already stated, Mr. Berg and people like him have a serious need for lies to justify their position in society. But if this letter can enlighten anyone, black or white, it will have served its purpose.

Now, let's set the record straight, The Eurocentric educational curriculum extols the Greek and Romans as being the founders of sciences, literature, philosophy and the arts. It never ceases to puzzle me how whites can hold the Greeks and Romans in such high esteem, yet totally ignore them when they credit Africa as being the source of their religion, science, laws and philosophy.

Greek and Roman writers, throughout antiquity, including Herodotus, Diodorus Siculus, Strabo, Lucien, Pliny, etc. make it unequivocally clear that the blacks of the Nile Valley established the earliest civilizations and from them, all others originated. Pythagoras and Euclid, who Europeans have titled "Father of Trigonometry" and "Father of Geometry" respectively, each studied African metaphysics and spirituality for over 20 years, in the Nile Valley.

The 18th century French explorer, Count C.S. Volney wrote of Egyptian Civilization in his book, *Ruins of an Empire*, "Just think that this race of black men, today our slave and the object of our scorn, is the very race to which we owe our arts, sciences and even the very use of speech! Just imagine, finally, that it is in the midst of peoples who call themselves the greatest friends of liberty and humanity that one has approved the most barbarous slavery and questioned whether black men have the same intelligence as whites!" It almost seems as if Count Volney is addressing Mr. Berg personally.

Recommending sources for introductory work is always difficult because so much is available. Unquestionably one of the best sources is *The African Origin of Civilization, Myth or Reality* by the late Senegalese scholar Dr. Cheikh Anta Diop (Westport: Lawrence Hill and Co., 1974). More recently, I would highly recommend *Egypt Revisited* by Dr. Ivan Van Sertima (New Brunswick: Transaction Publishers, 1989). This is an excellent anthology of essays by America's foremost African-American researches, and some work by African and European researchers. Another highly recommended text is the classic work *Stolen Legacy* by Dr. George James (San Francisco: Julian Richardson Assoc., 1954, reprinted 1988). This work discusses how Greek Philosophy developed from the esoteric wisdom of the Egyptians.

With some background of African civilization in the most ancient times, let's move to more recent times. What did the first Europeans find in Africa during the end of the 15th century as they were desperately in search of the necessary resources to bring them out of the Dark Ages?

In *Civilization Africaine*, Leo Frobenius, the German archeologist titled "The Father of Africanology" writes, "When they arrived at the Gulf of Guinea and landed at Vaida the captains were greatly astonished to find streets well laid out, bordered on either side for several leagues with two rows of trees; for days they travelled through a country of magnificent fields, inhabited by men clad in richly colored garments of their own weaving! Further south in the Kingdom of the Congo, a swarming crowd dressed in 'silk' and 'velvet,' great states well-ordered, and down to the most minute details; powerful rulers; flourishing industries: civilized to the marrow in their bones. And the condition of the countries on the eastern coast—Mozambique, for instance—was quite the same."

A recent publication by noted British africanologist, Basil Davidson, is a must for all serious students. His latest work, *African Civilization Revisited: From Antiquity to Modern Times* (Trenton, N.J.: Africa World Press, Inc., 1990) is an anthology of written accounts about African civilizations throughout history (2000 B.C.-1900s A.D.) encompassing the entire continent. These actual eyewitness testimonies leave no question about high state of culture most Africans lived in until colonization by Europe.

These testimonies make it unquestionably clear that the only impact Europe had on Africa was a destruction of it indigenous civilization and exploitation of its resources. People, such as Mr. Berg, who question the existence of African-American scholars will have some problems here; Mr. Davidson is a European and his work supports the claims of the other authors I have cited. Perhaps, Mr. Berg will be more willing to accept the truth about Africa coming from his own.

Another British historian, Thomas Hodgkins, once said "When people talk, as they still sometimes do, about Africa South of the Sahara as a 'continent without a history,' what they really mean is that Africa is a continent about whose history we Europeans are still deplorably ignorant. The reasons for this are complex, partly, whether we like it or not, we remain absurdly ethnocentric; 'history' for most of us means national, or at best 'European' or 'Western' if any African history creeps into the curriculum, it is usually under the old fashioned rubic—'the Expansion of Europe'... finally, one must admit, we are all to some extent still victims of colonial mentality: we find it hard to realize that Africans possessed their own indigenous civilizations for many centuries before we Europeans, beginning with the Portu-

guese at the end of the 15th century, conceived the idea of trying to sell them ours." Once again, Mr. Hodgkins seems to be addressing his comment directly at Mr. Berg.

The last reference I will make is a very important. Dr. Martin Bernal's book, *Black Athena: The Afroasiatic Roots of Classical Civilization* (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1987) critically examines the African and Asiatic roots of Hellenistic classical civilization. It is extremely valuable in that Dr. Bernal carefully documents the development of racist thought and how it progressively sought to destroy African history. In other words, Dr. Bernal traces for the reader the history that produced the racist ignorance of people such as Mr. Berg. The currently available work is part one of a three volume effort. Additionally, Dr. Bernal is British and Jewish, so Mr. Berg may find his work more palatable than that of our African-American scholars (even though they're saying the same things!)

I am not going to adopt the policy of racists and claim that any other race has not contributed to the development of civilization because all races have contributed to the advancement of man. But it must be made known that African people and their descendants founded many of the oldest and highly developed civilizations on all continents including ancient Summer and Elam in southwest Asia, the Indus Valley civilizations of ancient India, the Shang dynasty of China, the Khmer civilization in early Cambodia and the Olmec civilization of Mexico. The very forces that have successfully excluded the truth of African genius from society are responsible for the plethora of social ills affecting people of color in America and abroad.

Keith W. Crawford, RPh., Ph.D
Washington, D.C.

Dear Editor:

Why did you publish that garbage by Fred Berg?

M. Ward
Milwaukee, Wis.

Dear Editor:

I am severely frustrated by some of the garbage you print in your magazine.

In January issue you printed a letter by Berg of Florida. This piece of hate mail should have been tossed or returned to Florida. There are other publications that would gladly print Berg's view such as the gay KKK advocate. Since you are describing your publication as the National Black Lesbian and Gay Newsmagazine, please consider the sensitivities of your audience. Black lesbians and gays are well aware of the racism and the homophobia that exists in other and in our communities. To hell with Ice T and Mr. Berg. Return Mr. Berg his letter so that he could use it to wipe his ass, then properly flush it down the toilet.

Lemuel Walker, Jr.
Oakland, Calif.

Dear Editor:

I am white from the out back of Australia, I grew up with little water, wild animals, unbearable heat, and a 75 percent aborigine population. I like black men, I prefer them as my friends, roommates, and as lovers. But I cannot say that I relate 100 percent to their experiences. Although, I can't stand stereotype prejudice. But your regards to African Negroes or African Americans as to be a savage, ungrateful, primitive race could only came from a spoiled, self-centered white man. Who has had it so easy that he does not know anything about other cultures.

Black, Indians, Aborigines, Polynesians were all happy with their way of life. It was the white man who took away their beauty, by taking away their land, enslaved them, making them work their own land for the white man's benefit. They were told they had to wear the white man's clothes because they were ugly sinners, and that you never show your body to anyone. Then took away their dignity, pride by telling them their language, writings, and religion were ignorant. And then made them learn the white man's ways. And if that wasn't enough they raped and slept with these people at night and then kicked them out in the morning before their family and friends could see, because the white man was so ashamed that they slept with a nigger, a red skin, an inlander or a Calfer. And when they saw that the white man was ashamed that made them feel ashamed of themselves, thinking that there must be something wrong with themselves.

All that, they had been doing is trying to get back what they lost, and what you call "primitive" is more beautiful, and honest than what you will ever have in the "sophisticated" white world. By taking away from a culture you don't understand your going to have nothing left but depression, something they did not have before the white man. Because, these people have proven that they do not need the white people's money, and they don't need white people's attitude.

What people like you need to do is leave these people alone, so they can live their own way. Because, its something that white people will never really understand no matter how hard we try. Then and only then will we be truly united as one people.

Jerry Ledale
Las Vegas, Nev.

Dear Editor:

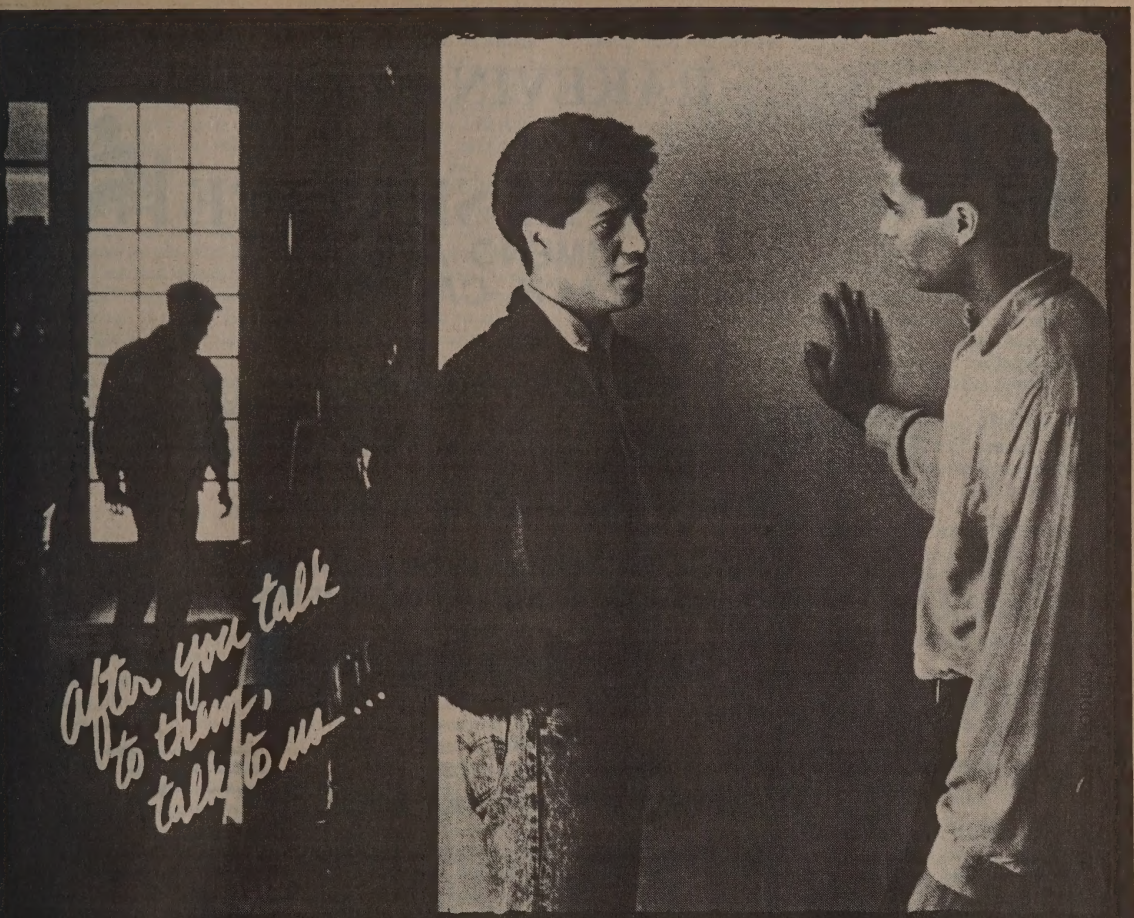
I'm responding to the letter written to you by Fred Berg, a racist ignorant Caucasian. Mr. Berg obviously has very little education. When Mr. Berg starts talking about genetic handicaps, he should review his history beginning 10,000 years ago and come forward.

From the beginning of time the Caucasian race has thrown itself upon others in the name of superiority. From the beginning of time the white race has parasitized first themselves and later others; not because of superiority but because of necessity. Before he left his homeland, he depleted most of the wildlife and his population remained low because he exterminated himself through warfare. Unlike in Africa, where unrelated people were left alone to do their own thing, Caucasians never had and never will have respect for differences. Mr. Berg should be reminded that ancient Egypt's first, second, and third dynasty was black and that Egypt went downhill as a result of Caucasian invasions. The Caucasian people we call Arabs, Jews, Iranians, Greeks, Italians today called themselves Hyksos, Hitites, Minoans, and Etruscans in ancient times. These are the people who stole black civilization and in later times passed it on to savage mainland Europe.

From the earliest of written records of the Arabs, Romans, and Greeks, we find that civilized blacks were the most moral of all people, whereas history tells us that Whites are the most immoral. I did not create white history. Whites created their own history and should account for it.

Today, as in the past, before the average black acts, he questions the right and wrong of things. On the other hand, with Whites, it is interest first and morality second. The white man says "I see, I want, I get." He claims history does not record good, bad, and evil, but only success and failure. Even "god" is to be used only when it fits his purposes.

Before Mr. Berg comments on famine, malnutrition, sickness, illiteracy and tribal warfare in African countries, he should go to the source. It all started with colonialism. It was his people who raped the continent of Africa. It was his people who drew up boundaries splitting related cultures and



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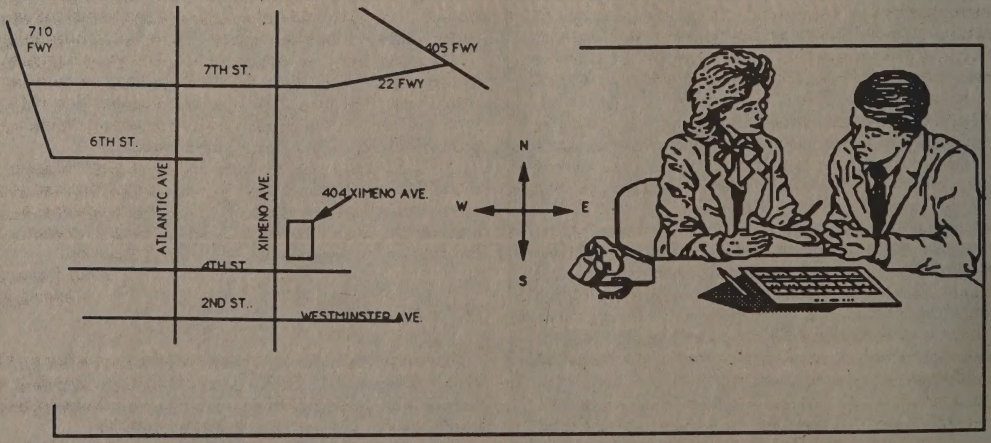

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placing them with unrelated cultures. It was his people who brainwashed a few and set them up as leaders and dictators who filled their own pockets and kept white interest.

Let us face facts. The white race is a parasitic race which uses trickery and cunning to stay out in front. Example: the black man wasn't made a slave because he was inferior; rather it was the other way around. 1) White men can't stay in direct heat too long or they will die. Black men were needed to work the fields to produce the white man's food and pick and chop the white man's cotton. 2) Recorded history tells us that the best of Africa was brought here: the artisans and people who knew how to smelt iron. In the beginning, if we had failed, the human race would have failed. In slavery, if we had failed, there would have been no America as we know it today. The black man is a friend to all nations and the white man is an enemy. Again the two histories speak for themselves.

Let me inform Mr. Berg: superiority means to be able to create and build from within. Destabilizing governments and exploiting people are parasitic actions, and should not be deemed superior. To build, create and support in isolation is superiority.

Bob Stocks
San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Editor:

I feel that Mackey's reply at the end of Berg's letter is better than Berg deserved or I can do. But, I offer the following just in case.

In his *Our Oriental Heritage* [New York: Simon & Schuster, 1935] Will Durant notes, "The 'Aryans' did not establish civilization—they took it from Babylonia and Egypt. Greece did not begin civilization—it inherited far more civilization than it began; it was the spoiled heir of three millenniums of arts and sciences brought to its cities from the Near East by the fortunes of trade and war."

Durant states, "In this rough theater of teeming peoples and conflicting cultures were developed the agriculture and commerce, the horse and wagon, the coinage and letters of credit, the crafts and industries, the law and government, the mathematics and medicine, the enemas and drainage systems, the geometry and astronomy, the calendar and clock and zodiac, the alphabet and writing, the paper and ink, the books and libraries and schools, the literature and music, the sculpture and architecture,the glazed pottery and fine furniture, the monotheism and monogamy, the cosmetics and jewelry, the checkers and dice, the ten-pins and income tax, the wet-nurses and beer, from which our European and American culture derive..." (p. 116).

I would add that Durant himself did not have the courage or the scholarship to notice the part played by black people in Egypt in assembling that impressive record. But, the one thing that is clearest is that there wasn't an Aryan among them.

And, what the Europeans did do with the legacy might be best exemplified with a few examples: as recently as 1971 the *Oxford English Dictionary* did not even include the word "heterosexual," let alone "homosexual," as if the English could ignore their existence by simply not having those words in their dictionary; indeed, as if the English had not matured enough to even mentally "play with themselves" to the extent of merely knowing those words.

Even in the matter of just making machines work, the black inventor of the self-oiler for railroad wheels, Elijah McCoy, (if we use Berg's tortured method of reasoning back at him) had to show us whites how to do it right. And, of course, not even Mr. Berg should object to having it pointed out that blacks did large chunks of the actual work in this country.

Perhaps the biggest crock of crap in Berg's letter was his claim that we whites "allowed you 'civil rights'." Mr. Berg must be young, and indeed, undereducated, to forget so soon that we white gays learned the real cost of our own "civil rights" by watching you get beaten, burned, hosed and murdered as you fought for the few such "rights" we have actually relinquished; and, then only because we had to. And, which Mr. Berg demonstrates, only too many of us are too ready to try to steal again.

The fact that you have had to fight and die for those "only words" on Mr. Berg's precious papers only shows how meaningless those words were. Mr. Berg's letter itself demonstrates how meaningless they still are.

But, of course, Mr. Berg does not seem to comprehend what actual courage, or even basic "manhood," is or he would have had balls enough to indicate in a letter to a gay publication whether or not he is straight or gay. Perhaps his real objection to Mackey's article is that Mackey dared to act "free."

Much is made these days about the need for black people to "consciousness raise" their sense of self-esteem. Believe me, the Bergs of this world demonstrate just how exaggeratedly high the white sense of self-esteem is; and, how dangerous it is even for whites.

Whether it is the ingratitude on a spectacular scale that we so recently showed towards Iraq (and, I do worry about those black Americans who applaud so "patriotically" such an obvious example of Race War) or, on so tawdry a scale as Mr. Berg's letter, it still diminishes us whites. After all, the Babylonians didn't become different people when they took the name Iraqis.

With *60 Minutes* already trying to line up Hassad of Syria as the new "Saddam Hussein" for America to bulldoze out of power, and with so many Arab "leaders" so willing to play "House Nigger" for America's "Massa," I wonder if black Americans themselves appreciate that Mr. Berg's agenda may well be the same as Mr. Bush's.

What we need are more Mackeys!

No! It was not easy reading "Black Identity and White Expectations"! But, it won't be any easier even just trying to breathe if you let us get away with our bullshit. Frankly, I have yet to see a single actually significant corrective measure in the area of the environment. Maybe, we will have to wait for the American Indian to tell us all what to do. And, maybe the Indian will have sense enough to just let us all die rather than prolong the agony that is facing humanity.

But, one thing is certain: when Mr. Berg suggests that "malcontents" should go "back where they came from" it is ironic that that would be him and Europe. For, no matter how well we whites think we stole America, "here" always has and always will belong to the Indians.

If BLK can excuse a white trying to play "blacker than thou," I would contend that African-Americans are going to have to also insist on division of America's power (i.e., legislatures) by race. Otherwise, it is the Bergs who end up with the share of your power that you don't insist on.

John Kavanaugh
Detroit, Mich.

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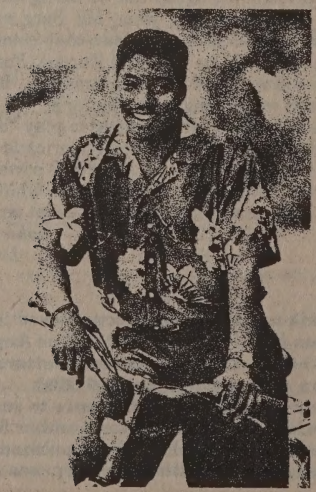
Keep your letter brief, and be sure to include your full name, address and telephone number for verification. Names will be withheld from publication on request. Letters may be edited for purposes of space or clarity.



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High on Milk

New York school gives lesbian and gay people of color a fighting chance

By Cary Alan Johnson

Gerard doesn't like to talk about the time the kids in his upper Westchester group home spray-painted "Kill Homos" on his door, but it's easy to imagine that his rouged lips and leatherstudded drag didn't make him the most popular kid in town. When he ran away to New York City for the fourth and final time, finishing high school was the least of his concerns. Young, gay and pretty, he saw surviving in New York as a more urgent and frightening goal.

INSTITUTIONS

The fast life of Vogue, partying and socializing on Greenwich Villages piers, a hang-out for young black and Latino gay men, may from a distance shine like a beacon. But the reality up close is sometimes fatal: Drugs, prostitution are easy cracks for youths living on the streets to fall through. That's where Gerard lived for nearly a full year before he found the Hetrick-Martin Institute and its Harvey Milk Off Site High School.

Named after the assassinated San Francisco city supervisor, the school was established for kids like Gerard who were having trouble staying in regular schools because of their sexual orientation. Though there are other counseling and outreach programs for lesbian and gay youth, such as Los Angeles's Project Ten, the Harvey Milk School is the only accredited academic setting. Despite limited funding, attacks from a member of the Board of Education member, and having to work with students who have significant problems, the Milk School continues to thrive seven years since its inception.

Situated among the warehouses and car barns of 10th and West Streets, directly across from the piers, the school looks from the outside like one of the many multi-use lofts Greenwich Village is famcus for. Inside, students and teachers work in two large classrooms. Harvey Milk is as far west as one can go in New York without falling into the Hudson River, a fitting metaphor for the lives of these kids. Abused and rejected, they are caught by the Harvey Milk School before they plunge off the edge of the world. For many of them there's no where else to go.

The Milk School is not for everyone. Most openly lesbian and gay kids can survive and many thrive in traditional high school settings, despite the homophobia they face. Harvey Milk students are often those who've been through hell. Twenty percent come to the school while living outside of traditional family settings, in group homes, shelters or on the street. Some have been sexually abused or have supported themselves through prostitution. A few have learning disabilities. But they all have one thing in common: They want to go to school.

The academic program is not much different from programs at other alternative high schools. Approximately 30 students, overwhelmingly male blacks and Latinos, in grades nine through 12, work at their own pace, with individualized assistance from the school's two teachers, two teaching assistants and volunteer aides. A host of extracurricular activities are supplemented by regular meetings with counselors, half of whom are lesbians or gay men.

"In a way it's like a family," Gerard said, "You can tell a teacher something and know that he'll respect it. You don't have that kind of relationship in a regular high school."

Where the Milk School's program differs is in its inclusive approach to the standard high school curriculum. According to media spokesperson Liz Tracey, the school takes a "whole person approach." Students are encouraged to accumulate credits to get their diplomas, "but within that we integrate not only images of lesbian and gay people, but images of African-American people, images of women that aren't ordinarily included in a standard curriculum."

The notion of multi-culturalism may be easier said than done. While all of the full-time faculty and administration are white, the school's enrollment is 90 percent black and Latino, most of it male. Though there are a number of African-American counselors, there is a lack of people of color in leadership positions to act as role models.

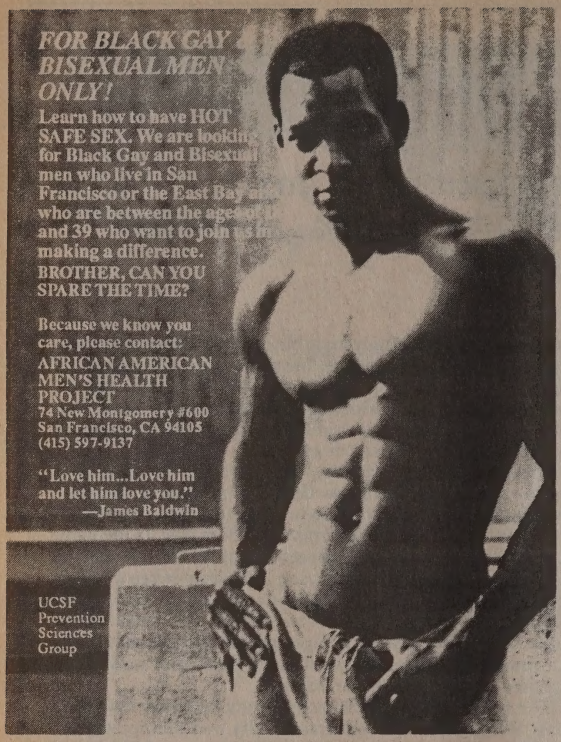
At the Institute's drop-in center, a pale Puerto Rican with teenaged acne hacks with a dry cough. Steve Williams, one of the school's counselors, asks him how he's been feeling. In a few minutes, Williams has set up an appointment for the boy to see a doctor at the Gay and Lesbian Community

Though there are a number of African-American counselors, there is a lack of people of color in leadership positions to act as role models.

Health Project. According to the city health department, 16 percent of the male and 32 percent of the female adolescents with AIDS nation-wide live in New York City.

Williams, 32, black and gay, also teaches health at the school. "My philosophy about health is that it's really about teaching self-esteem," he said "Getting them to see themselves as valuable."

Tall order for a lot of these kids who have been abused verbally and physically by parents, other kids and even teachers. Wade Hanley (aka Mahogany Labeija, a diva of one of New York's premiere ball Houses) was told by his last teacher at a regular high school that homosexuality is a disease that can't be cured. It's for young gay people like this who are made to feel so negative about themselves that Har-



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Sixteen-year-old Paulo came to the school from Hillcrest High in Queens. Petite and poised, his sensitive face twists as he tells his story. It was harassment from his drama teacher and the school psychiatrist that convinced him to transfer. Paulo's mother has been very supportive of his decision to go to Harvey Milk. He wants to teach the deaf when he graduates.

According to Tracey, the recently proposed city budget cuts won't much affect the school or its programs. The Board of Education only provides salaries for the school's two full-time teachers. Rent for the site, lunches and material are all paid by the Hetrick Martin Institute through a combination of private, government and foundation support.

A recent attack on the Institute and its candid AIDS risk-reduction material by School Board Member Irene Impellizzeri, would have effectively shut down the Harvey Milk School by barring institute staff members from any New York City public school. Impellizzeri's resolution, which was opposed by Chancellor Joseph Fernandez, received little support, but sent a frightening message to the school. The institute director, Frances Kunreuther, said she was "astonished and saddened" by the action and a Town Meeting to show support for the school was attended by more than 300 members of New York's lesbian and gay community.

According to Tracey, closing the school would be a tragic loss. "The school tries to rebuild the self-esteem these kids will need to survive, and to help them return to regular schools."

Many students, though, prefer the atmosphere at Harvey Milk and elect to stay, This year, thirty kids, including Gerard who has been placed in a group home in New York City where there are other gay kids, are slated for graduation. The school has recently established a scholarship program, to help students pay for SATs and transcript fees for colleges.

Dionne Freeney, a staff member with Youth Enrichment Services, a program at the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, argues that the Harvey Milk School doesn't just help the lesbian and gay kids who attend classes there: "Its existence is important. Just the fact that it's there means that our kids will always have somewhere to go."

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Androgyny Night at the matches.

Heading for Home

Gospel legend James Cleveland is called by the Lord to that mass choir in the sky

By Mark Haile

Inspiration: that is what the life of the Rev. James Cleveland was to millions worldwide. That's what his 50 plus years in gospel music were. How tragic that the story of his death should be so opposite of the story of his life.

COVER STORY

The Grammy-award-winning singer who wrote more than 400 songs in his career, and who founded the Cornerstone Institutional Baptist Church in Los Angeles where he was pastor, was remembered by over 7000 people who began arriving at 6 a.m. to be part of the overflow crowd at the Shrine Auditorium on Feb. 16. It was a week after his death brought about by HIV-related complications, attributed in the mainstream media to respiratory problems and congestive heart failure.

Coming together to honor the life and legacy of Rev. James Cleveland were several generations of African-American musical artists from the Caravans to Tremaine Hawkins, Stevie Wonder to Andrae Crouch, backed by a 500-voice mass choir.

There is recurrent inspiration in the life of Rev. Cleveland, or "King James" as he's been called. He wrote over 400 songs and recorded over 70 records in his career—which easily spills over the 100 mark if all of the records he produced or with his arrangements are included. He himself lost track of the number of gold records he had received after the 15th one. He had three Grammys to his credit and *Having Church* gave Rev. Cleveland a posthumous fourth Grammy for Best Gospel Album by a Choir during the 1991 Grammy broadcast just days after his death.

His half century in gospel last October was crowned with an anniversary celebration that was a who's who of inspirational music held at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion of the Los Angeles Music Center, the home of grand opera and the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

Although rumors, stories and eyewitness reports touched on Cleveland's sexuality, nothing definitive ever appeared in print. But that may change soon as all three major supermarket tabloids are reportedly preparing stories on the singer. Cleveland was held by many who knew him to be a member of the black gay and bisexual community, yet he was held in such high esteem that no one dare besmirch his image among heterosexuals by publicly speculating on his choice of sexual partners. Cleveland certainly was well known to and admired by some Southern California lesbian and gay African-Americans, many of whom had grown up listening to his music their entire lives. This, in spite of the homophobia that peppered his sermons for many years.

Born on the south side of Chicago, Dec. 5, 1931, James was the only son among three children. His love for music began early, listening to Mahalia Jackson sing when he was her paperboy. If Mahalia wasn't at her Indiana Ave. home, James would skip over to the beauty shop where she worked and listen, enthralled, to the music she made while she straightened hair.

By the time he was six or seven, he was following his grandparents to choir practice, joining in whether he was invited or not. Fortunately, the choir *did* enjoy little James, making him the choir mascot. And that was quite a significant event because the church at 33rd and Indiana Ave. was the Pilgrim Baptist Church, birthplace of gospel music. The minister and choir director was Thomas A. Dorsey, one time piano player to Ma Rainey who had found religion after a family tragedy.

Dorsey, who co-founded the National Convention of Gospel Choirs and Choruses and established the first music publishing house devoted exclusively to the work of black gospel composers, was more than just impressed by the talents and ambition young James exhibited. When James was only eight years old, "The Father of Gospel Music," as Dorsey was called, wrote a song especially for him. But without a piano at home, James would tap his fingers on an imaginary one, practicing until he got it right. He was a teenager before his family could afford a real upright.

As a teenager, Cleveland began writing songs, encouraged by Roberta Martin, founder of the Roberta Martin Singers, who performed for some 30 years starting in 1936. Cleveland studied their music styles, learned to play piano for them, and in 1948 sold "Grace is Sufficient" to Martin for $40. It was his first of many compositions he was to write for her. By that time, young Cleveland was singing with a group of teens from his neighborhood, The Thorn Gospel Crusaders, that began to earn him more and more attention around Chicago and elsewhere.

With former Roberta Martin Singers Bessie Folk and Norsalus McKissick, Cleveland became a pianist and singer in the Gospelaires. At the age of 19, he made his first record, "Oh, What a Time" with them. In 1950 Cleveland followed that feat by touring with his idol, Mahalia Jackson. The momentum had begun.

By 1953, Cleveland was with the Caravans, the top all-female ensemble, where he was responsible for arrangements that brought the whole church to their feet. His beautiful boy soprano voice—which he had strained from singing so much as a child—re-emerged as a one-of-a-kind baritone. It came to be his trademark by the mid-50s.

In 1960, after signing, writing and arranging several gospel groups, Cleveland moved to Detroit to take a position as musical director for Rev. C. L. Franklin's New Bethel Baptist Church. That same year, Cleveland was offered an engagement at the Apollo Theater in Harlem, and he met the reverend's nine-year-old daughter, Aretha. Providence dictated that he was to train and encourage her as Rev. Dorsey had done for him a quarter century earlier.

Herman Lubinsky of Savoy Records sought to woo Cleveland to his label, but so did Vee Jay Records, which was at the time a bigger, more well-known recording company. The victorious Savoy initially had no idea what a treasure they had acquired, though it wasn't long before Cleveland began to get his Midas touch and turn records to gold.

His first album, *Christ Is the Answer* did well. His second album, *Peace Be Still,* made him "The Crown Prince of Gospel" and put him on a fast track to being the biggest name in inspirational music. His success was also success for others and the groundwork was laid for the future of the industry. Gospel became big business and Rev. James Cleveland became a big businessman.

In 1963, "Peace Be Still" became the first super hit of gospel, remaining on the charts for 15 *years,* eventually selling over a million copies. By 1966, Cleveland was playing command performances before the crowned heads of Europe. By 1968, he was the highest paid performer in all of gospel music, making an income that was somewhere into the six figure bracket. Savoy Records noted his records out-sold the *combined* sales of any other singer's records.

"Peace Be Still" was becoming a worldwide hit without mainstream music company exposure, and when a Detroit DJ began to play "Without a Song," Cleveland found himself a reluctant pop star. But he steadfastly refused the lucrative offers to go mainstream with his talents.

"I will not perform for the white man for the purpose of financial profit," he said. "I don't feel I can do much good in a club. I don't feel that the atmosphere is conducive, and I don't feel that the reason for bringing me there is the reason for which I'm singing. I feel that if they want religious music in the clubs, in the casinos where folks are ten feet away and drinking and gambling, then they should get white singers... But they would not insult the intelligence of white singers by asking them to sing in a club."

Cleveland felt the importance of gospel was its message. "You'll find that most white folks, when they do come to a black concert, all they want to hear is your up-tempo stuff. They're not concerned about the message you're trying to give. They just want a funky beat, something they can clap their hands to, and they enjoy it because it's fun to them."

The Cornerstone Institutional Baptist Church of Los Angeles was one of the dreams Cleveland was able to realize in his lifetime. From 60 members when founded in November 1970, the members numbered over 7000 when they marched into their new $2,000,000 home in 1983. The 1250-seat sanctuary has a marble entrance, choir stand and altar, crystal chandeliers and a cross built into the ceiling with 800 lights.

Besides a pleasant home in View Park for himself, Cleveland had provided his grandmother and two sisters with homes of their own, and had a financial interest in a Los Angeles restaurant.

Although known for his expansive wardrobe, containing somewhere in neighborhood of 100 suits and 50 pairs of shoes, Rev. James Cleveland was still a rather simple living person, uncompromising in his beliefs even as he made his entrance on stage in his silk suits.

Cleveland was long known to especially encourage and support young singers, even though as Edwin Hawkins noted, that he had probably inspired every living gospel singer. Cleveland went much further than that, coaching young singers, arranging recording dates, even paying rent and helping with bills for people in need.

He trained a young organist by the name of Billy Preston, who, like Hawkins and Franklin, also sidelined gospel to become a major recording star. Although Cleveland sold millions of records, he maintained an almost exclusively black following, and continued to be more concerned with passing on the traditions of gospel music than he was with earning a wider, secular audience.

Cleveland did take time out to help some friends in Hollywood, however, working on several movies and assisting with concerts and recordings. He arranged music for Quincy Jones that earned him a Grammy on the soundtrack for the *Roots* miniseries. Another Grammy came for his work on Aretha Franklin's *Amazing Grace.* His *Live at Carnegie Hall* album won a Grammy in 1978, and he made history performing one of the selections from the album on the Grammy telecast.

In 1980, Cleveland recorded a BBC special, *In the Spirit,* with Natalie Cole. He also took time out to do arranging, directing and training for albums. He performed on several himself, for Elton John, Ray Charles and Cleo Lane, and in the films, *The Idolmaker, Blues Brothers* and *Pipe Dreams,* with Gladys Knight, where he also wrote several songs.

During Rev. Cleveland's memorial services, Edna Tatum, announcer for Cleveland and the Southern California Community Choir, said, "He inspired us. He taught us. He united us. He sustained us and he made ways for us. He was in the element and the ingredients that make up the experience of what gospel music is all about.

"The music of the tired, the poor, the rich, the nobody, the somebody, the everybody, if you really want to know the truth about it, the Rev. Cleveland did what Jesus did. He went about doing good. So many eyes have been dried by his music and so many hearts have been lifted by his music."

So ironic, these words, when Cleveland's effect on generations of colored, Negro, black and finally African-American lesbians and gay men struggling for reconciliation with their sexuality and religion is held up for view.

His antigay remarks from the pulpit serve as a reminder of how painful his internalized homophobia must have been. As much as an inspiration as he was to those who listened to

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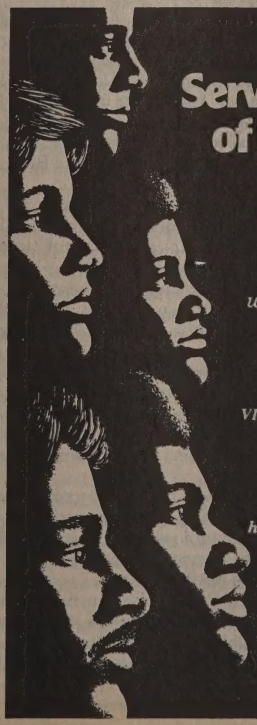

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his music, the many lesbians and gay men in his congregation were denied more than just an influential, positive role model. They were short-changed in their relationship with their spiritual leader, and, at the same time, became collaborators in their own spiritual embezzlement by not speaking out.

Indeed when Delois Barrett Campbell of the Barrett Sisters speaks of what gospel meant to African-Americans in the 30s and 40s, it's understood why black lesbians and gays hung onto their faith so tenaciously.

"I suppose gospel music came into being because we black people, as a race, had been crushed so much, and so cruelly," Barrett noted, "So these gospel songs of ours were comforting and consoling to us. I believe that the people who wrote the first gospel songs were inspired by God to write to give our people something to feed on or to live on."

It was thus that Rev. Cleveland channeled his life into service to his people to comfort his fellow outsiders in that medium designed by his race for such a purpose—even if black lesbians and gay men were not openly acknowledged, openly accepted or openly comforted.

In 1988, Cleveland commanded thundering applause at the first "Coming Home for Friends" gospel concert at the Shrine Auditorium to benefit the Minority AIDS Project. On stage were assembled members of many local church choirs in the mass choir formation that Cleveland had developed and made famous worldwide.

Cleveland *did* want to perform at the third "Coming Home for Friends," a sharp contrast from the cajoling that had been necessary to get him on stage for that historic AIDS-related event the first time. But his decision had come too late. Cleveland's complications with pneumocystis carinii (PCP) kept him from being able to participate.

Rev. Cleveland received the National Association of Negro Musicians Award in 1975, followed shortly thereafter by the NAACP Image Award, then an honorary doctorate from Temple Bible College. He founded the Gospel Music Workshop in 1968 to pass on his knowledge to what had grown to over 20,000 participants every year. On August 12, 1981 he became the first gospel artist to receive a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame, located at 6742 Hollywood Blvd., between the stars of Gloria Swanson and Al Jolson.

From the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. to staid, classical concert halls in England, France and Italy, Cleveland brought gospel music into the hands and hearts of more people around the world than any other performer.

Even as esophagitis, requiring an emergency tracheotomy, then a heart attack slowed him down until he could barely sit up for several hours at a time, he was still writing music and playing his music at home.

After what was to be his last revival service at Cornerstone Church Wednesday night, he was admitted to Brotman Medical Center on Thursday, and on Saturday, he was gone.

The 59-year-old singer, composer, arranger, producer, pastor, pianist, leaves behind a brother, three sisters and a daughter.

All day, Feb. 10, local stations were besieged by requests for songs by Rev. Cleveland as word of his passing spread.

"The nation has lost a musical and religious giant," said Los Angeles County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn. "His work will remain a legacy for all of us until eternity."

A musical tribute was held the Friday following his death at his Cornerstone Institutional Baptist Church, with the services the following morning held at the same Shrine Auditorium where he had so deftly performed for the Minority AIDS Project.

State Senator Diane Watson presented a proclamation from the State of California, saluting a "life that touched thousands of people, not only in this community, but around the world."

Dr. J. C. Wade, Sr. of Omaha, Neb., Rev. Clay Evans of Chicago, Ill., Dr. Frederick ("Rev. Ike") Eikerenkoetter, Rev. William Sims and Bishop Robert McMurray lead a long list of clergy who came to give tribute, with Dr. Edward V. Hill of Mt. Zion Baptist Church delivering the eulogy.

Stevie Wonder sang "Without a Song," with the massed choir, and Tremaine Hawkins sang "What Shall I Do?" Musical tributes were also offered by the Caravans, Shirley Ceasar, Albertina Walker, Cassietta George and Dorothy Norwood. The mass choir behind the singers held over 500 voices from Cornerstone, the Los Angeles Gospel Messengers, the Southern California Community Choir, the Kurt Carr Singers, the Northern California Mass Choir and Southern California Mass Choir of the Gospel Music Workshop.

Andre Crouch, along with his twin sister, Sandra, also sang and offered their remembrances of the King of Gospel.

Of the new era for gospel music after the passing of Rev. James Cleveland; of the legacy for African-Americans in the future, who will come to know joy and solace because of his gifts, Rev. Sims, second vice president of the Gospel Music Workshop of America, said, "Where do we go from here? We are going up. The founder left us with a prayer. He left us with a plan to serve the world, to make music, sacred music, music for young people, music for everybody. The machinery is set and we will obey. Thank God for a man like the Rev. James Cleveland."

Had Cleveland not been prevented by fear over disclosure of the actual facts surrounding his illness, he might have become more involved with the programs and services available in Southern California for people with AIDS—both as a provider of resources and a recipient of services. No one can guarantee that his life would have been longer, but it's an odds-on favorite to have been fuller.

For all of the inspiration that Rev. James Cleveland provided to millions, for all of his worldly successes, what he really died of was, perhaps, that homophobia of the black church outraced his battle for self-acceptance.

"The next customer who says 'Have a nice day, sir' to me is going to get their ass jerked right through the phone line."

BLK NEWS

U.S. Army Gives Sgt. Watkins $135G Plus Promotion

SEATTLE—The U.S. Army has agreed to pay $135,000 in back wages and provide full retirement benefits to Sgt. Perry Watkins of Tacoma, Wash., who was discharged because he is gay. The settlement ends a 10-year legal battle.

Watkins and the Army reached their settlement just as the Persian Gulf war is sparking renewed controversy about the role of lesbians and gay men in the military. Gay rights advocates say his case could serve as an important precedent in ensuing legal battles.

Watkins, 42, would have been eligible for a full Army pension in 1989 after 20 years, but the Army gave him an honorable discharge in 1985. At the time, he had five years left on his most recent enlistment. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, based in San Francisco, ruled in May that the Army must allow Watkins to serve out his enlistment because it repeatedly had re-enlisted him in the past knowing he was a homosexual.

The court decision did not address the Department of Defense's overall ban on lesbians and gay men in the military. An Army spokeswoman, Capt. Barbara Goodno, said that the policy, which holds that allowing gays and lesbians in the military would harm discipline and morale, remains unchanged.

Under the terms of his settlement, which was finalized Jan. 29, Watkins, 42, was reinstated by the Army, but agreed to retire voluntarily by Feb. 1. In addition, he was promoted from staff sergeant to sergeant first class, retroactive to June 1, 1985.

Watkins, who was drafted in 1967, said that in filling out a preinduction medical form, he had answered "yes" to a question asking if he had homosexual tendencies. Later, three Army investigations were initiated after he told superiors about his homosexuality, but after each investigation he was allowed to re-enlist.

He said that the Army accepted him when he was drafted despite his acknowledgement of "homosexual tendencies," because it needed "cannon fodder" for the Vietnam War.

Lesbian and gay rights lawyers originally said the court ruling in the Watkins case was so narrow that it applied only to his particular circumstances, a position Watkins told BLK he felt was rooted in the unwillingness to credit a "black queen" with such a landmark ruling.

But in recent weeks, lesbian and gay legal professionals have been reconsidering their positions based on developments that surround the war in the gulf. As lesbian and gay military personnel scheduled to be sent to the gulf have informed their superiors of their sexual orientation, more than a dozen have been told that they will be discharged when the war is over.

Paul DiDonato, legal director at San Francisco-based National Gay Rights Advocates, said the Watkins ruling could serve as a valuable precedent should the military attempt to dismiss openly lesbian and gay personnel after they return from the Middle East.

"The war creates a situation where the military may be producing more Perry Watkins," he said. "If people are out to their commanding officer and are in combat, and then the military tries to toss them out later because of their sexual orientation, then I think even a right-wing judge would have a hard time swallowing that kind of treatment."

A lesbian reservist stationed at Ford Ord recently went public with her case, saying the Army planned to send her to the gulf but refused to promise her that she would not be dismissed afterward. Although she was subsequently granted an honorable discharge, lesbian and gay rights attorneys say they know of other cases where the military is apparently deferring discharge proceedings.

A Department of Defense spokesman said recently that it would "absolutely not" allow lesbians and gay men to serve now and discharge them later.

"The first thing they do when there's a war is turn their backs and pretend the regulation doesn't exist," said Watkins. "I think the situation in the gulf could certainly hasten a change in the military's policy if a substantial number of people take a stand and say they're gay."

Black Lesbian Org Starts

LOS ANGELES—The image of a typical ladies club bares no resemblance to that of Ladies Concerned, the new professional women's organization of African American Lesbians in Los Angeles.

Following the success of Gentlemen Concerned in their social events which have raised thousands of dollars for Los Angeles area African-American AIDS organizations, Rue and Jewel Thaïs-Williams had a discussion with friends in their home about starting a similar organization for women. There is a notable absence of groups by and for African American Lesbians in Southern California, and as Ladies Concerned president Stephanie Farrington pointed out, this means a lack of positive images-especially for the young lesbian just coming out.

A representative of Gentlemen Concerned came to give the group some background on getting started and giving the organization a focus, then largely with Rue Thaïs-Williams' impetus and coaching, Ladies Concerned was launched.

The early direction of Ladies Concerned was shaped by what [Stephanie Farrington] described as "a serious impact on women and children with AIDS in the African American community." She stressed that "meeting the urgent need," for both individuals and organizations was to take top priority for the group.

In the process of achieving that aim, Farrington believes that Lesbians Concerned "will be able to do something bigger than if as individuals." She said, "the idea is to do something positive, enjoy ourselves doing it, and enrich ourselves in the process."

Ladies Concerned is on the road to getting articles of incorporation filed with the Secretary of State and obtaining their non-profit status with the state and federal governments as they proceed with their first project to raise funds for Rue's House, the first residential facility in the United States for women and children with AIDS.

Currently meeting one Sunday a month, the other officers include Cheryl Butler, vice president; Liz Mays, secretary; Angela Vaughn, recording secretary; Rue Thaïs-Williams, parliamentarian; and Sandra Domingue, corresponding secretary.

Congress OKs Key Bills; Black Voting Records Best

By Belinda Rochelle

WASHINGTON—The 101st Congressional session saw the passage of several pieces of legislation that impact the lives of lesbians and gay men in general and people of color in particular.

An analysis by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force of Congressional voting records on key bills reveals that, in general, members of the Congressional Black Caucus have the best voting records on lesbian- and gay-related legislation. Two exceptions are Gus Savage (D-Ill.) and Mike Espy (D-Miss.).

The Hate Crime Statistics Act requires the Department of Justice to collect statistics on crimes that manifest prejudice on the basis of race, religion and sexual orientation. The Americans with Disabilities Act, signed into law by President George Bush, extends civil rights protection to persons with disabilities, including people with AIDS and HIV infection.

Also in the area of AIDS legislation, the passage of the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act provides emergency disaster relief to American cities hardest hit by the AIDS epidemic and establishes a program of grants to provide AIDS-related preventive health services.

The Housing and Community Development Act authorized housing programs to prevent homelessness among persons with AIDS and HIV infection but has been stymied due to lack of funding.

Members of the Black Caucus of the 103rd Congress included Ronald Dellums (D-Calif.), Julian Dixon (D-Calif.), the late Augustus Hawkins (D-Calif.), Mervyn Dymally (D-Calif.), John Lewis (D-Ga.), Charles Hayes (D-Ga.), Cardiss Collins (D-Ga.), Kweisi Mfume (D-Md.), John Conyers (D-Mich.), George Crockett (D-Mich.), William Clay (D-Mo.), Alan Wheat (D-Mo.), Donald Payne (D-N.J.), Floyd Flake (D-N.Y.), Edolphus Towns (D-N.Y.), Major Owens (D-N.Y.), Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.), Louis Stokes (D-Ohio.), William Gray (D-Pa.), Harold Ford (D-Tenn.), and Craig Washington (D-Tex.).

In the 102nd Congress, first term Representative Maxine Waters (D-Calif.), taking the seat held by Augustus Hawkins, is expected to sustain the Black Caucus's progressive record.

High on the lesbian and gay agenda for the 102nd Congress is reintroduction of the Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Bill.

The legislative health agenda includes the development of policies on all health issues related to lesbians and gay men. In the next session, lesbian and gay activists will seek passage of a major AIDS prevention bill in addition to increased appropriations levels for all areas of authorized AIDS specific legislation, including the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act.

The status of women's health issues is a critical target. In the United States one of every 11 women will get breast cancer. AIDS is the number one killer of black women between the ages of 24-35 in New York. The toll of black women dying from cervical and ovarian cancer has increased.

National health care reform also tops the legislative agenda to address inadequate access to health care in general, especially as it relates to lesbian and gay people of color.

CDC December Statistics on AIDS Cases in U.S.

	White (not Latino)		Black (not Latino)		Latino		Asian/Pacific Islander		American Indian/ Alaskan Native		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
MALE												
Gay and bisexual contact	67,049	80	15,966	44	10,051	46	733	81	123	63	94,126	66
Straight IV drug use	5,305	6	12,676	35	8,442	39	30	3	22	11	26,540	19
Gay and bisexual contact, and IV drug use	6,112	7	2,852	8	1,526	7	21	2	30	15	10,557	7
Hemophilia and coagulation disorder	1,127	1	89	0	108	0	16	2	8	4	1,352	1
Straight contact	570	1	2,442	7	340	2	9	1	2	1	3,367	2
Receipt of blood transfusion, blood components or tissue	1,658	2	341	1	199	1	44	5	2	1	2,252	2
Other and undetermined	1,798	2	1,624	5	1,080	5	50	6	8	4	4,600	3
Male subtotal	83,619	100	35,990	100	21,746	100	903	100	195	100	142,794	100
FEMALE												
IV drug use	1,649	40	4,556	57	1,608	51	14	17	16	50	7,858	51
Hemophilia and coagulation disorder	26	1	6	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	34	0
Straight contact	1,229	30	2,597	32	1,195	38	28	34	8	25	5,073	33
Receipt of blood transfusion, blood components or tissue	922	22	297	4	181	6	26	32	4	13	1,432	9
Other and undetermined	295	7	581	7	198	6	14	17	4	13	1,096	7
Female subtotal	4,121	100	8,037	100	3,184	100	82	100	32	100	15,493	100
Total	87,740		44,027		24,930		985		227		158,287	

Source: "Adult/Adolescent AIDS Cases by Sex, Exposure Category and Race/Ethnicity Reported through December 1990, United States," U.S. Centers for Disease Control. HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, January 1991

EACH Alive Despite Fire

SAN FRANCISCO—The model San Francisco HIV Program for gay men of color is operational and spirited despite a fire one week after their grand opening.

The Early Advocacy and Care for HIV program (EACH) suffered the loss of their brand new office, along with computers, printer and their printed brochures, as the result of an electrical malfunction according to the San Francisco Fire Department. Early estimates of the loss were placed at over $20,000.

Although disappointed by the setback, the staff of the program has set up temporarily in the offices of the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention around the corner.

The EACH program is already attending to an impressive caseload of gay men of color in San Francisco combining the efforts of the member organizations of the Gay Men of Color Consortium, representing the American Indian AIDS Institute, Gay Asian-Pacific Alliance Community HIV Project, Black and White Men Together/Men of All Colors Together, and Community United in Response to AIDS/SIDA. The financial support for the project has come from the CDC in Atlanta, the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention and the city and county of San Francisco.

Not only does the program bring together various organizations serving gay men of color, it also seeks to provide a complete program, starting at the point a person receives their diagnosis or revelation of HIV status. EACH attempts to act as patient/client advocates providing support, access and intervention in a manner culturally sensitive to each person on an individual basis.

With extraordinary high rates of gay men of color testing seropositive and the shortened life expectancy between diagnosis and death, EACH puts an emphasis on making alternative therapies available to the gay men of color who live outside the gay ghettos and thus not aware of the varieties of options they may have available to them. Gay men of color have too often—even in San Francisco—fallen "between the cracks" in efforts to reach every person at risk for HIV or with HIV at risk for AIDS.

If the program seems ambitious, it is. Before the fire, there were already 73 clients taking advantage of the 160 plus hours of training by EACH counselors.

Fortunately, the flexibility and adaptability that the EACH program was designed around places it in an advantageous position to provide services nearly at the level prior to the fire. Fortunate, too, although existing files and equipment were a total loss, was that there were not more client cases at the time. The fire was an eerie reminder that San Francisco is still struggling to return to the level of government and private funding that existed prior to the October 1989 earthquake. EACH demonstrates by its tenacity and manner in which it operates just how innovative and aggressive San Francisco has been in responding to the challenge of AIDS.

Knight Wins Competition

DAYTON—The New Miss Midwest USA is Misty Knight, crowned Dec. 2 in Dayton, Ohio. Misty, who is also the current Miss Gay Black Ohio, is a veteran performer well known for an elaborate nightclub act which has included at times fire and live snakes. For the talent competition at the 1470 West Club, Misty performed selections from the opera Madame Butterfly.

A former Miss Heartland USA and Miss Ohio Continental, Misty will compete at the Miss Gay USA Pageant April 2-7 in Louisville, Kentucky.

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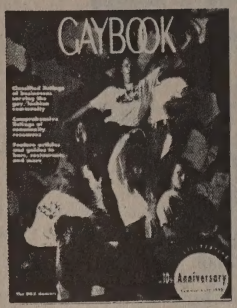

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Coalition Seeks to Stem Return to Unsafe Sex

SAN FRANCISCO—A new coalition of organizations called the National Relapse Prevention Network met in San Francisco to determine how to deter gay men—and others—from reverting to unsafe sex practices.

An emphasis on reaching higher risk populations, such as men of color and youth underscored the diversity of tactics that will be necessary to improve both the initial safe sex education programs and follow-up procedures, like booster shots. The Relapse Prevention Programs are now seen as a vital component in the educational process.

One doctor described angrily how a friend, "who should have known better," went from testing negative for HIV antibodies to positive "after one little accident." Such one time "accidents" can be prevented with relapse prevention, the network hopes.

The network, made up primarily of AIDS organizations in the U.S. and Canada, was started with $145,000 in grants from AmFar starting back in 1990.

The network has already found out that organizations can keep from reinventing the wheel in many instances by comparing their experiences. The biggest plus is that culturally sensitive outreach materials aimed at African-American communities will then be in the hands of all member agencies.

Latin City Bans Gay Bias

BAHIA, Brazil—Bahia, Brazil has become the first city in South America to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation. Bahia is Brazil's fourth largest city. Grupo Gay da Bahia, Brazil's oldest gay organization is one of the most active on the continent, having distributed over 200,000 free condoms to date.

"Apparently she wrote something called 'The Blackman's Guide to Understanding the Blackwoman'."

AIDS Hits 1/3 of Adult Population in Parts of Africa

WASHINGTON (AP)—AIDS in Africa is killing up to a third of the adult population in some areas and leaving thousands of orphans, including many infected with the virus, researchers said Feb. 16.

Projections by the U.S. Bureau of the Census forecast that by 2015 there will be more than 70 million cases of AIDS in the countries south of the Sahara Desert. AIDS-related infections already represent up to 80 percent of the hospital admissions in Zambia, said Dr. Peter H. Perine of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Services. "It has devasted Zambia," he said at the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. "It is overwhelming the health care system in the country."

About 22 percent of the women of reproductive age in the Zambian capital are infected with HIV, Perine said. "It's likely to be as high as that in men," he said.

Peter Way of the Census Bureau said, based on estimates by his agency, AIDS would be the major cause of death among adults in African countries south of the Sahara by 2015. "Some areas already have that level of infection," he said. Forty percent of the adult population in some cities in Tanzania is infected, Way said, adding that the infection rate is 30.3 percent in Rwanda's capital of Kigalli.

Linda A. Valleroy of the U.S. Agency for International Development said that in Kampala, Uganda, AIDS is expected by 1992 to almost double the rate of death—to 53 per thousand—among women aged 25 to 35. A similar AIDS-related death rate increase is expected among adult males.

Because most of the AIDS-related deaths are among able-bodied men and women who are rearing families, many children are left without parents. "By 1992, we estimate that the mortality of women of a reproductive age will be doubling and the number of orphans will be doubling," she said.

Valleroy said there are more than 250,000 orphans in sub-Sahara Africa as a result of AIDS and the number may rise to 16 million by 2015. Up to 40 percent of the children born to AIDS-infected mothers will develop the disease and many will die before the age of five.

In some areas, Valleroy said, the extended family system will absorb the orphans. But in Uganda and Tanzania, Valleroy said, "many families can no longer cope. There aren't enough caretakers to take care of the orphans." She said she knew of one grandmother who was raising 14 children whose parents died of AIDS-related disease.

Nearly all of the spread of HIV in Africa is attributed to heterosexual contact, the experts said. In the United States, the disease is most frequent among gay or bisexual males and IV drug users.

Black TV Gets Probation

COLORADO SPRINGS—A 26-year-old man who joined the all-female cheerleading team at a high school here was recently sentenced to two year's probation with required therapy. Charles James Daugherty, who pleaded guilty to criminal impersonation, faced the possibility of two years in prison but was given probation as prosecutors recommended.

Daugherty was arrested in July of last year for investigation for forgery and criminal impersonation. Pretending to be female, Daugherty, then 26, had enrolled at Coronado High School using the name Cheyen Weatherly, and made the cheerleading squad before being found out eight days later.

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Black Cop Charges Bias

FRANKFORT, Ky.—A Kentucky state police trooper and former assistant high school principal have been arrested on a violation of Kentucky's sodomy law that allegedly occured while the officer was on duty and in his police car.

Trooper Jerome Martin, 28, was fired on Jan 11 by a state police trial board. He had been suspended since November 13 for the incident which had occured near Pikeville, Ky. at a cemetery on May 27.

Martin's lawyer, Earl Mullins, of Louisville maintains that there was considerable bias against his client, the only black trooper at the Pikeville headquarters in Kentucky. Mullins noted that other state police at the station have an "attitude of predisposition" about Martin because he dated white women.

Testimony against Martin came from Doris P. Ray, the mother of another Kentucky state trooper, who with her husband, John, allegedly drove past Martin's police cruiser at the cemetery. Mrs. Ray said she saw Tim Branham's head in Martin's lap.

Martin failed his polygraph test, while Ray's were inconclusive.

Ethiopia Backs Gay Org

NEW YORK—The International Lesbian and Gay Association was denied consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, which oversees human rights issues around the world. ILGA representatives testified in January, receiving support from a number of nations. While a majority of the nations of the Council did favor recognition, a consensus was necessary to gain approval.

While the Libyan ambassador said that ILGA was "sexually immoral," another African nation offered praise. According to Lisa Power, ILGA secretary general, "We're very pleased at the amount of support we received from African, European and Latin American delegates, particularly unsolicited and highly positive comments by Ethiopia."

Ethiopian ambassador Heile Mariam Goshu said, "We are not making moral or value judgements. We must face facts whether we like it or not—they are a minority of thousands or millions." The actual number of lesbians and gays worldwide is conservatively set at a half billion.

The issue is slated to come back before the UN in 1993.

AALGA Gets $5K Grant

ATLANTA—The African-American Lesbian Gay Alliance of Atlanta, (AALGA) was awarded a $5000 grant from the Fulton County Drug and Crime Task Force on Dec. 7, for developing literature on black lesbian and gay chemical dependency, and to establish a telephone referral service for information on available assistance.

The grant, which AALGA received on Jan. 9, will fund posters and pamphlets that address alcohol and drug usage, abuse and addiction for which AALGA is soliciting bids from graphic artists. They are also collecting data on all agencies in the Fulton County vicinity with outreach to the lesbian, gay and bisexual communities, or staffs sensitive to those populations. AALGA is looking for descriptions of programs and services from counseling services, support groups, and treatment centers, whether government or private.

According to the National Clearing House on Alcohol and Drug Treatment, lesbians and gay men experience alcohol and drug related problems at three to four times more than the general population.

Activists Protest Safari Philly Bar's Congo Night

PHILADELPHIA—A picket line and protesters appeared outside of New Kurt's Dance Bar in Philadelphia on Jan. 18, demonstrating against full-page advertisements that used offensive racial stereotypes.

A coalition of groups including Queer Action and BWMT/Philadelphia picketed in front of Kurt's during the "Congo Night Safari Party." Full-page ads appeared in local gay publications prominently featuring an ape, while the text read "A special show by the slave dancers," with exotic drinks, a food buffet, and promising "the entire tribe will be here for this fun-filled night of sub-Saharan excitement."

Kurt's has had many theme parties at its locations in New Haven and in Philadelphia, none of which had been cause for concern until ads for the club's Dec. 14 theme party, "The Oriental Express" appeared featured Sumo wrestlers.

But according to Michele L'Heureux of Queer Action, "Kurt's has a history of racism." Nate O'Neill and John Speer, protesters from BWMT, said that a petition was being circulated to demand an end to what they stated were "racist policies and insensitive attitudes."

Although carding remains a problem at some white Philadelphia bars, including Kurt's, the activists said they were moved to action because the ads for "Oriental Express" and "Congo Night" were extreme in their insensitivity.

Some protesters suggested that the racist imagery could have been minimized or eliminated by altering some of the visual elements of the advertisements. The "slave dancers" line was altered to "safari dancers" after the bar began receiving complaints.

More than a dozen protesters representing the various people of color organizations and Queer Action stood in front of the bar at 13th and Chestnut streets, chanting and handing out leaflets until shortly after one a.m.

The *Philadelphia Gay News*, one of the two local newspapers which ran the advertisements, said, "We promise that in the future, ads will receive greater scrutiny. This one certainly should have."

"Well, I guess it's true. You are what you eat."

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Black Lesbian Gets Prize

ATLANTA—Journalist Sabrina Sojourner has won an award from the Atlanta Association of Black Journalists for "Accepting Difference," which appeared in the July 1990 issue of BLK. This is the first time in the Association's 14-year history that it has honored an openly lesbian or gay person.

Sojourner was presented with a first place award in the Editorial-All Media category at the group's annual Pioneer Black Journalist Awards Banquet Jan. 26 at the Botanical Gardens in Piedmont Park. She received a statuette bearing the likeness of Frederick Douglass and the AABJ seal.

"I have a lot of peers who are closeted who thought I was crazy to join the Association and be out," said Sojourner in her acceptance speech. "I hope my winning encourages more African-American lesbian and gay journalists to come out. If I can do it in Atlanta, certainly they can do it in San Francisco, New York, D.C. and the other big cities."

Sojourner, a writer, lecturer and former editor of *Etc.*, is an ordained minister, single parent and the board chair of Atlanta's Sisterlove: Women's AIDS Project.

Women Form 'Sisters'

JAMAICA PLAIN, Mass.—Revolutionary Sisters of Color, a new organization which, according to a release, is "committed to working on the range of issues which affect women of color," has called for an end to the Persian Gulf War. The self-described group of "socialist feminist women of color" grew out of the October 1990 "I Am Your Sister" conference which celebrated Audre Lorde and her works.

"We call for an immediate cease fire in the Persian Gulf and a halt to the U.S.-led coalition bombing of Iraq," a statement read. "Women of color are over 50 percent of the U.S. female troops in the Gulf...While the U.S. spends billions of dollars on weapons of destruction, our vital needs such as AIDS research, housing, health care, jobs, and other necessities of life go unmet."

Revolutionary Sisters of Color can be reached at Box 2798, Jamaica Plain, Mass. 02130.

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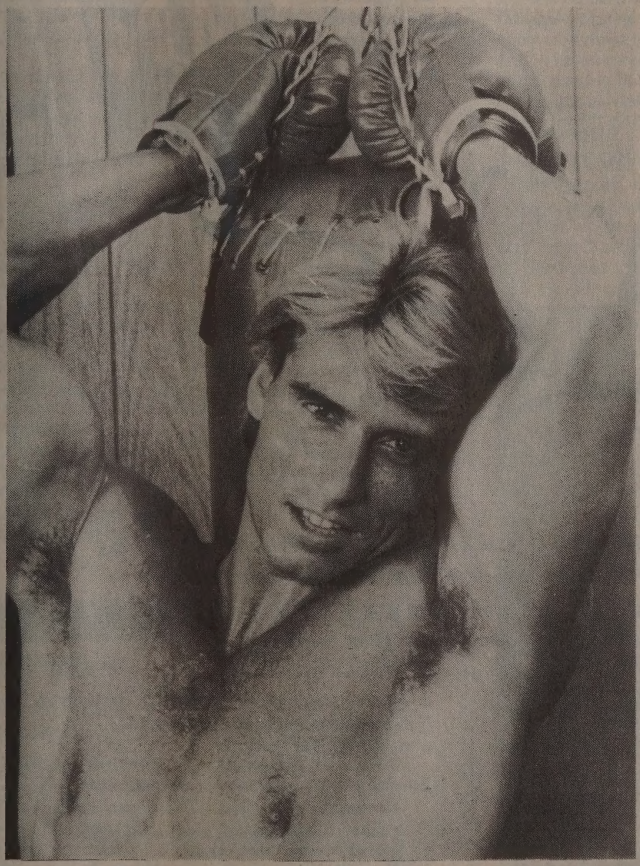

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BLK ARTS

THEATER

'Hits Home' Hits D.C.

Before It Hits Home, Cynthia Bates's play at Arena Stage in Washington, D.C., held an opening night benefit performance and reception that raised funds for Food and Friends, the D.C. organization that provides meals to homebound people with AIDS.

Bates's drama concerns a man's male and female lovers and his family forced to deal with AIDS when it hits their eldest son.

One of the actors portraying a gay man, Michael Jayce, is actually straight. His preparation for the role was thorough enough for the audience to participate in the drama more fully than anyone might have anticipated.

The opening performance was punctuated several times by audible remarks made by people in the audience who were surprised by two male characters in the play who are lovers showing intimacy.

MUSIC

Third Whitney Album Arrives

By D.J. Marius

The creative pressure is always on an artist to please their public, especially when her first two albums have reached worldwide sales of over 30 million. *I'm Your Baby Tonight* (Arista 8616) is the much anticipated third release from **Whitney Houston**.

Initially marketed as a pop singer, Whitney is working her way toward a more soulful sound. She pairs herself with well-known musician-producers such as Narada Michael Walden, Stevie Wonder, Luther Vandross and superstar R&B team L.A. and BabyFace. The album's first two cuts, "I'm Your Baby Tonight" and "My Name is Not Susan," have the synthesizer-laden sound typical of many groups produced by L.A. and BabyFace. The voices of any current roster of dance/pop divas (Karen White, Jody Watley, take your pick) could fit on the two.

Whitney sounds best when free of limitations. She is able to use her beautifully gifted voice, and start to expess what it can really do on "All The Man I Need" and "After We Make Love." Her voice soars while taking the listener to another place on the touching "Miracle" (also produced by L.A. and BabyFace). Other standout tunes include "Lover for Life" and the gospel-infected "I'm Knockin'."

Final note: It is Whitney's extraordinary talent that should be receiving the most attention, not what she does or doesn't do in the privacy of her own bedroom. Isn't that the right we're fighting for?

After a two-year absence from the recording studio, **Jeffrey Osborne** emerges with a new record label, Arista Records, and a new album. Osborne became well known in the 70's as the lead singer of the group LTD. The 80's brought a successful solo career, and a string of hits including "On The Wings of Love," and "Don't You Get So Mad."

His newest release, *Only Human* (Arista 8620), is a polished, pop-oriented product aimed at expanding his appeal. He collaborates for the first time with composer-producer Barry Eastmond (who has also worked with Freddie Jackson, Stephanie Mills and Regina Belle).

Sheer mention of Osborne's name often evokes thoughts of romance. His voice expresses passion, and is most successful when singing ballads. The best of these include "Lay Your Head," "Getting Better All The Time" and the album's title cut.

The smooth, distinctive voice behind Soul II Soul's monster singles "Back to Life" and "Keep On Movin'" has come into the light on her own. **Caron Wheeler** lists Chaka Khan, Phyllis Hyman and Billie Holliday among her musical influences. On her long-awaited solo debut project *UK Blak* (EMI 7-93497-2), she does these influences justice.

UK blaks are the first generation of blacks born and raised in the United Kingdom from immigrant families. Wheeler sings of their plight, and the deception they endured, on the album's bumpin' title cut (can't wait for the 12" remix on this one). "I'm a UK blak," she says, "Black without the 'c' because it feels more Afrikan to me." This feeling continues on with the album's first single, "Livin' in the Light."

Wheeler teams up with a number of different producers—most notably Loose Ends leader Carl MacIntosh, and Afrika

Caron Wheeler

Baby Bam of the Jungle Brothers. As a result, her assured, dynamic voice is pulled in several different directions. She encompasses reggae, R&B, rap, African beats and English pop. At times the mix works, other times it falls short. Other notable jams include the passionate "Don't Quit," and a fantastic duet with Raymond Simpson, "Enchanted."

SOUNDCHECKS: Take some time to check out the newest Ten City release "State of Mind" (Atlantic). This trio from Chicago kept clubs packed on the strength of some jammin' singles from their first album, "Devotion," "Right Back to You" and "That's the Way Love Is." These tracks were major hits the world over. The new album still has a strong foundation of house music, and the benefit of Byron Stingily's falsetto lead vocals. Essentially an album of up-front club tunes, the tracks "Destiny" and "Put Love Where You Want It" stand out. We really look forward to the upcoming remixes from this album; they're guaranteed to slam hard!

A&M Records has put together an interesting mix of "underground" club mixes called *Jam Harder.* This dance compilation has gotten attention so far primarily because of the success (in clubs and at radio) of DNA's remix of "Tom's Diner," featuring Suzanne Vega. A&M pushes club music to the creative edge, with the help of both the domestic and UK branches of the label.

The hottest cuts turn up in unexpected places. A rapper who calls herself the overweight Pooch (!) turns it out with "Hip House Party." Jazzi P works over Chic's classic, "Le Freak," for a sizzling jam called "Feel the Rhythm." And Steve Harvey is in the house with a down-tempo burner called "I'm the One," which features New York rapper Wise Intelligent from the Poor Righteous Teachers.

Nine-time Grammy Award winner Bobby McFerrin serves up an amazing mixture of harmonies on his new album, *Medicine Music.* Gaining national notoriety for his crossover hit "Don't Worry Be Happy" in 1988, McFerrin has gone back to his creative urges from within to experiment further with vocal styles of jazz, blues, R&B and soul. "I was trying to get into something really black and African on this album," McFerrin states, "which led me to do a lot of improvising."

He includes his 70-year-old father Robert, Sr. (a former baritone with the Metropolitan Opera), and his talented choral group Voicestra. Two stunning tracks, "Common Threads" (the theme from the Oscar-winning documentary on the AIDS quilt) and "Sweet in the Mornin'" open you up, exposing you to the passion and warmth the human voice can generate.

MUSIC NEWS

Vanilla Ice and His Ass

By Ron Smith

Were you wondering what it was **Vanilla Ice** said that got edited out of The American Music Awards? Well according to sources that were in attendance, Ice (or Vanilla) was upset with the booing he was receiving, so during his acceptance speech he said "And to all of you who are booing you can kiss my white ass." No thanks Vanilla. Poor Dick Clark, this year it was Vanilla and his ass, last year's awards had **Guns 'N Roses** saying the "F" word and **Andrew Dice Clay** saying every word on the MTV Awards. Maybe Dick's hair will finally start to turn grey.

Speaking of Vanilla, don't invite him and **M.C. Hammer** to the same party. It's seems these two are not members of the mutual admiration society. The Hammer thinks that Ice is trying to copy his dance moves, while Ice pulled out as Hammer's opening act because he was only getting 25 minutes a night. And the beat goes on.

It's been said that **Janet Jackson** has turned down a half mil from *Playboy* magazine to pose nude. Thanks Janet, I don't think I could stand seeing another naked Jackson... Well, maybe **Marlon.**

People are saying that **Michael Jackson** is holding back the release date of his greatest hits album until sister Janet's album has slowed down, well he may have a long wait. All seven singles from *Rhythm Nation* have gone top five and the eighth "State of the World" is well on it's way.

Whitney Houston's singing of "The Star Spangled Banner" at this year's Super Bowl has been released as a single and is getting quite a bit of radio air play across the country. Oh say can you see?

And while we're on the subject of Ms. Houston. It seems she has the ability to take songs other artist have recorded and make them huge hits.

"Saving All My Love For You" was originally recorded by **Marilyn McCoo** and **Billy Davis, Jr.** "The Greatest Love of All" originally recorded by **George Benson**, and "All the Man That I Need" was first done by **Sister Sledge.**

Marilyn McCoo, Billy Davis, Jr., Florence LaRue, Ron Townsen and **Lamont McLemore,** the original **5th Dimension** may be reuniting for an album and tour. Goody!

Mary Wilson is in the recording studio in New York and will be **Jay Leno's** opening act at Ceasars in Las Vegas.

Did you know that Mary auditioned for the role of Clair Huxtable on the *Cosby Show*?

Feeding the Flame: Songs by Men to End AIDS, is a joint effort by a number of gay male performers and other concerned artists who each contributed the recording expenses to produce an album as a benefit for AIDS organizations.

All proceeds from the album are going to AIDS organizations chosen by the collaborators on the project. Among those participating are **Assotto Saint** and his band, **Xotica; John White Jr.;** and the **Flirtations.**

Ike and **Tina Turner** were recently inducted into the Rock 'n Roll Hall of Fame in New York. Neither of them attended the ceremonies. Tina was resting up from her just completed world tour, and didn't have the time. And Ike was doing time.

Sinead O'Conner is boycotting the Grammy Awards and is refusing to accept any grammy she might win. She says the music industry is a joke. That all they care about is commercial fluff, that will sell a lot of records and make a lot of money. And not about artists who are really interested in making music that will bring about changes in the world. She says she is sick of being in the music industry. She also says she doesn't like **M.C. Hammer** because he is one of the people she was talking about when she made that statement. To which Mr. Hammer replied, "She is always whinning about something. If it's not **Andrew Dice Clay**, it's the singing of the national anthem. If she dislikes it here that much, her plane ticket to her homeland is on me." Can't touch that.

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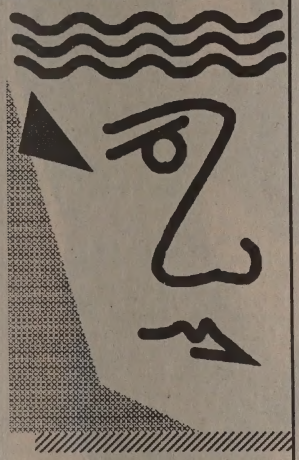

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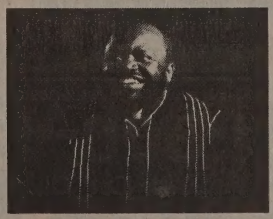

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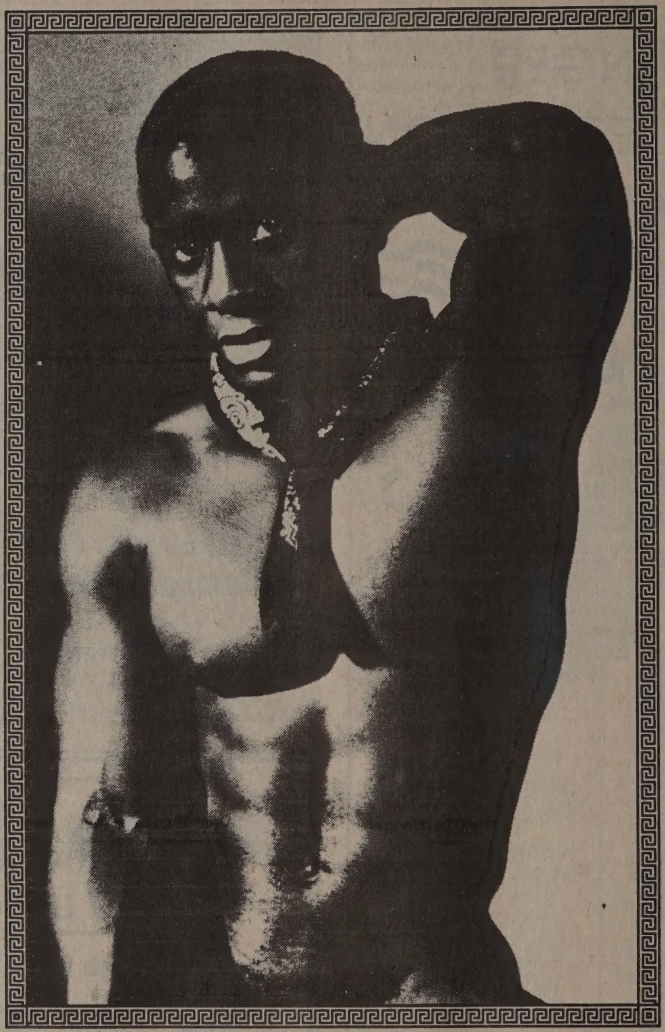

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Read My Lips

by Preston G. Guider

Brandy Moore, Willie Brown's aide-de-camp, and thus California's highest placed openly gay political staffer, is out of a job, a victim of the Golden State's Prop. 140 that mandates smaller legislative staffs. **Xavier Hall**, relatively new to Sen. **Robert Roberti**'s team and **Charles Stewart**, an oldtimer with Sen. Diane Watson, are also threatened...It took three years after AIDS complications claimed **Willi Smith** in 1987, but without Smith at the helm, **WilliWear** filed for bankruptcy last June. Discussions are reportedly in progress with the likes of **Barneys New York** and **BASCO** about buying the rights to the name...**Salt-N-Pepa, Nona Hendryx** and **Queen Latifah** were among the live performers at New York's AIDS Dance-a-Thon sponsored by the **Gay Men's Health Crisis** Dec. 8. "It gives you a lot of pride to be able to help out," said Latifah. "I was with it. I'm down with the cause." Nearly $1.3 million was raised...In contests held at **Rene's** in Tampa, **Chip** was designated Mr. Rene's 1990, **Charles,** was first runner-up and **Keeron** (our choice) was second runner-up. Co-MCs for the evening were **Tiffani Middlesexx** and **Rene Evans**...**Grace Jones** was spotted dancing on a podium at the London gay club, **Heaven.** What's news is this time she didn't fall down. Girl, say Grace, and *mean it!* The salacious Miss Jones showed up for her show at New York's Palladium wearing chains and a G-string. She doffed the chains onstage and put on a tight fitting cat suit...In Detroit, another unrelated gay **Heaven** was named the Best R&B/Rap/Techno Club in the recent Metro Times Music Awards...**Michael J. Harrington** has been elected president of the **Rodde Center,** Chicago's lesbian and gay community center....Filmmaker **Michelle Parkerson** and writer **Essex Hemphill** were members of a panel discussion, "Sex, Art and Politics" held at **Astraea** bookstore in the District Dec. 1. Both artists stressed that their works were catalysts for social change. "Everything we do as individuals is political," Hemphill said explicitly. Parkerson said, "the mass media has been used to kill women and people of color for some time...We have to reclaim our history."...Alas, the Mr. Gay Dominican Republic contest at **La Avion Club** in Santo Domingo caused such a sensation in the town that almost every gay hangout in the city was shut down as a result. When do we get to see this guy?...**Sandra Coleman,** a black lesbian who ran as a New Alliance Party candidate for the Hennipin County Commission with almost zero budget, received 40 percent of the vote...Comic **Paula Poundstone,** reflecting on Jesse Helms's recent re-election asked, "Why is it we didn't want the South to secede, again?" Why, indeed... **Charles Debnam** has been hired by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force...**A. Billy S. Jones** was honored by the **Whitman-Walker Clinic** at a Hyatt Regency dinner-dance recently for his work in minority outreach...Men with beards now can get in to L.A.'s **Midtowne Spa** for half price on Thursday. Students (with or without a beard) can do the same on Wednesday...Ex-New Orleans resident **David Flot,** a staffer at the Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum and national distribution manager for BLK, swore after a recent trip to his old city that he intended to pack bags and return for good. But the lure of Mardi Gras town's **Richard Slaughter** and **Wilbur Gibson** wasn't enough. Alas, dear David is staying on the coast...**John Davis** was the featured soloist at the Unity Church of Pomona's Dec. 14 AIDS benefit concert. The church choir and gospel groups from all over the Inland Empire combined voices for Christmas Baskets for PWAs and good foot stompin' hand clappin' gospel music... **Adeva** ("Respect," "In and Out of My Life" and "So Right") was at **Tracks** in D.C. Dec. 6 for a **National Gay and Lesbian Task Force** benefit...The **Consortium of Gay Asian Groups** in L.A. banded together on Jan. 11 to give what we thought was an excellent lesson in how different organizations with different agendas can cooperate on ventures. The crowd was apolitical, but they *were* pretty, and appreciative of the show's highlights: a tribute to **Josephine Baker,** a divine **Grace Jones,** and a staging of **Madonna**'s "Justify My Love" video that was, shall we say, anatomically correct. Now, let's see if the children can *top* what our Asian bro's put together...On the other side of the nation, **MACT/NY** members took time out from a busy January of consciousness-raising sessions and endless workshops for a cabaret show at legendary **Don't Tell Mama,** featuring **David Perkins** and pals...Betcha didn't know that Gotham City's black gay balls are the oldest lesbian and gay activity in the United States. **Snow Ball 1990** at **Irving Place** in Manhattan continued the noble tradition Dec. 16. The bash designates almost as many award categories as the Emmys including nods for "Battle of the Real Runway Models" (in which vogueing is prohibited), "Realness" (school girl vs. drug dealer), "Battle of the Amazons" (women 6 ft. and over), "Portrait of a Famous Person" (be Grace Jones, Patti LaBelle) and "Mr. and Mrs. Outer Towner"...What famous out-of-the-closet black graphic designer tried to move to Virginia to pursue greener business pastures, but after only three months away, came back to Southern California to be near the man he left behind?...Drag queen alert! *T.V. Guy* wants you. Write 3320 Sirus Ave., Las Vegas, Nev. 89102...Master photog **Bob** "Black Is More Than Beautiful" **Finney** has just completed a poster for L.A.'s **AAGLCA,** that we understand is hot enuf to get snatched out of your hands. Look out Strebinski! And happy anniversary to Bob and lover **Rob Clark** who just celebrated their 18th year together...We want another chance to drag more friends to see the **BGMU** workshop that was held at Josie's Cabaret and Juice Joint in San Francisco's upper Market District on Jan. 25. This savvy new performance group of black gay men spared no detail in their preview of a new work that answers the age-old question, "Where are all the black gay performance artists?"...While we were wondering, we popped down to the Mission district

"Where does black history go when the month is over?"

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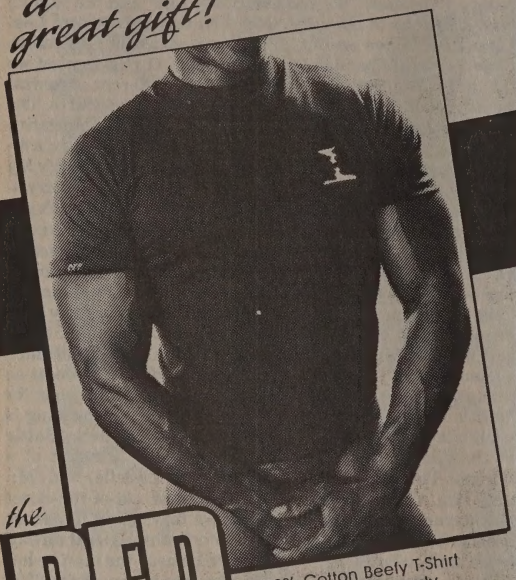

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to catch "The Changing Color of AIDS" photo exhibit about AIDS in communities of color. It's at the **Eye Gallery** through Feb. 16...*Looking for Langston* has become a hit in Mexico City, of all places...Group j.o. has become so popular in Manhattan that not only do **Jacks of Color** parties now take place monthly, but a new group, **Club Frottage,** has sprung up. Call **James Brown** at 212-491-7228 for more info..."Keepin' On—Images of African-American Lesbians from the Lesbian Herstory Archives" opens Feb. 28 at the Center in New York. It runs through April 11...The Powers That Be have trimmed the bushes to knee high at Mt. Vernon Square aka Fantasy Island in D.C. making outdoor action visible and thus impossible. But Malcom X Park continues uninterrupted...As it does at **Hubbard Books and Video** in Chicago...University of California, Irvine social sciences bibliographer **Daniel Tsang** wants to hear from anyone who has used the Freedom of Information Act to access their FBI files. Write Box 28977, Santa Ana, Calif. 92799-8977 or call him at 714-751-2856...**Monica Palacios** talks about racism, lesbian sex scenes, unwanted hair and pseudo mariachis, among other things, in her one-woman show, "Latin Lezbo Comic," set for March 1 and 2 at Highways in Santa Monica. *When these guys speak, nobody snores* ...**Melvin Dixon** will read from his works March 19 at Queens College...In response to the mysterious deaths of several hundred apparently healthy sleeping young men in rural Thailand over the last several years, the guys have taken to wearing lipstick and nail polish so that they might be mistaken for women. We never used that excuse on *our* mothers...When the **Buzz** opens in the Leimert Park area it will be the only non-bar location to take your intended to in the Crenshaw area. Word is out that the best in local artists are being tapped...Super-activist and former BWMT/DC black co-chair **Chris Bates** celebrated his 40th birthday with a party at the Encore Social Club in the District...the Los Angeles chapter of the **Golden State Gay Rodeo Association** has selected **Phill Wilson** to be grand marshall of Rodeo 1991 to be held in March. Now we can imagine Phill in cowboy drag. No problem with that. But on a horse? This we gotta see....**Taylor Smith** and **Jebb Creech** wowed the crowd at the Genderfuck Drag Ball at the **Girl/Boy Bar** Dec. 7 at the **Varsity Theater** in Minneapolis's Dinkytown. Wearing fishnet shorts, nipple tassels and boots, Smith says he wanted to wear a little of both genders...**James Graham Bronson's** *Willie & Esther,* a non-gay love story produced by **Stanley Bennett Clay,** original scheduled for a two-month run has been extended through April 28...Need to cover KS lesions? **Ann Landers** suggests Dermablend, **Being Alive** recommends Joe Blasco dry base professional makeups (Columbia Cosmetics, 1440 Gower St., Hollywood) and a special line of make-up developed by Debra Provenzano (Zano Cover, 1204 Ave. U, Box 1197, Brooklyn, N.Y. 01229) ...**United Lesbians of African Descent** and the **Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum** co-hosted a "We Are Family" party Dec. 9. Kwanzaa decor and theme, of course... For those who thought the **Watts Towers** just stood there, they reverberated as well on Feb. 2 with an afternoon program "Looking at the Blues Aesthetic"...We were an "eyewitness" to **Bo Jackson's** doctor on an L.A. teevee news sports segment, but instead of paying attention to the injured left hip where the Raider tailback's doctor was pointing, it became, er, transparent, that the illuminated X-ray inadvertantly divulged other hitherto hidden information suggesting Bo has considerable talent for maintaining his marketability. What a joy it was, too, to see a silhouette of Bo's considerable, ah, attributes on prime time TV. Now if only we had thought to tape it....Until next month, when our T will be flavored with leaves from the National Black Lesbian and Gay Conference...

Seventh Annual

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We're confronting AIDS on every side. But our first and foremost concern is for those who have Human Immunodeficiency Virus. They're the reason we initially set up our AIDS Hotline in 1982, and soon followed up with a buddy program and counseling.

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They need to understand the disease. That's why we offer guidance on living with AIDS. Updates on insurance issues. Advice on faith and spiritual matters. And counseling on chemical dependencies and other addictive behaviors that often complicate an AIDS diagnosis.

Now as if the mental and physical drain of AIDS isn't enough, there's also the financial drain. So we provide essentials like food, clothing, and dental services to those in critical need.

Of course, the fight against AIDS isn't only between the disease and those who have it.

It's everyone's problem.

That's why we promote public awareness. Try to educate those who feel they don't need it. And demand that the Government of the United States approach AIDS just as it does every other major disease.

At AIDS Project Los Angeles, people discover courage and strength they didn't know they had. But before we can help, they have to do one simple thing.

Call 213-962-1600 and talk to someone who cares.

Having AIDS can be a frightening experience, which is all the more reason it shouldn't be a lonely experience.

AIDS PROJECT LOS ANGELES

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wanted: Sierra Domino Newsletter back issues. Photocopies okay. Willing to pay reasonable fee, costs of photocopying and postage. Need issues 1, 3, 5 and 7, and any published after issue 22. Call Alan Bell at 213-410-0808, or write BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. (27)

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Finally...a gay traffic school. If you get a traffic ticket, come and spend a fun day with friends. Call 1-800-748-5933. TVS# 00694. (32)

ORGANIZATIONS

Hairy men/admirers. Bear/trappers! Nationwide explicit adlistings. Infopak $3.00: Hair, 59 West 10th, New York City 10011. (27)

Club Frottage, Networking group for safe (frottage/j.o.) men of color. Meetings held first and third Thursdays at 8 p.m. The Center, 208 W. 13th St., N.Y.C. For information call J. James Brown, 212-491-7228. (27)

SERVICES

Income tax preparation. Bigger refunds! Pay later may be available. 14 years of service to our community. Caesar Rucker, 213-676-9783. (28)

Professional Drug and Alcohol Help. Stop the Anger. Stop the Depression. Stop the Abuse. For 24-hour help call 1-800-STOP-NOW (1-800-786-7669). The Open Quest Institute. Serving our community since 1978. (30)

Co-dependent? Small group for business or professional people. Insurance okay. Free interview. Jim Fain, MFCC. 213-276-4464. (26)

24-hour Crisis Hotline. Professional help is just a phone call away now! Depression, anxiety, AIDS-related mental/emotional problems. Other psychological problems. 1-800-444-9999. The Open Quest Institute. Serving our community since 1978. (33)

EMPLOYMENT OFFERED

Administrative Director. Kinheart, a lesbian-feminist agency, seeks to fill the Administrative Director position, beginning March 1991. Qualifications: Candidates should have a strongly articulated feminist approach. Experience with feminist, lesbian or other type of community-based organization. Knowledge of lesbian issues. Fund-raising and administrative skills. Salary: $22,000-$26,000 plus benefits. The Kinheart Women's Center provides a safe space for all women. The Board is deeply committed to Kinheart's programs and mission as a strong feminist-based, lesbian-affirming organization. Women of color are encouraged to apply. Interested candidates should request our information packet by writing: Kinheart Women's Center, Attn: Personnel Committee, 2214 Ridge Ave., Evanston, IL 60201. (27)

Communications/Media Director. Overall responsibilities: Full-time position reporting to the Deputy Director for Programs of the National Minority AIDS Council. The Communications/Media Director will head the Communications/Publications Program. The purpose of this program is to keep the NMAC constituency, the media and the public in general abreast of the role of people of color in the HIV epidemic. The Director will also be responsible for promoting NMAC activities and NMAC responses to developments in HIV public policy. To accomplish this, the Director will be the primary contact with the print and broadcast media and as such will prepare and disseminate editorials and press releases. Specific duties and tasks: (1) Develop and manage press relations and continuing strategies to highlight the mission and accomplishments of people of color working on the community-based response to HIV. (2) Supervise the production of the NMAC HEALer and Update, including writing, editing, layout and distribution. (3) Maintain routine contact with reporters; provide information, guidance and referrals. (4) Prepare editorials, press releases and responses to press inquiries. (5) Organize media events such as briefings and press conferences. Job qualifications: Applicants are required to have a college or advanced degree in communications or journalism; 5-7 years of experience in journalism and communications, preferably with coverage of public policy issues and legislation, especially in issues affecting minority communities; demonstrated sensitivity to AIDS-HIV issues; excellent verbal and writing skills. Applicants should be energetic and highly motivated. Bilingual skills a plus. Women, people of color, HIV+, and physically challenged encouraged to apply. To apply: Send resume and cover letter to NMAC, 300 I St., N.E., Fourth Floor, Washington, DC 20002. Attn.: Carlos Velez. Closing date: April 15, 1991. Salary: Commensurate with experience. (27)

Conference Assistant. Overall responsibilities: Full-time position reporting to the Conference Logistics Coordinator of the National Minority AIDS Council. The Conference Assistant will help the Coordinator in carrying the logistics function and will also be in charge of contacting the trainers and speakers for the 1991 National Skills Building Conference. The program, which in principle will be determined by the Executive Committee, will be finalized by the Assistant, who will schedule the plenaries and tracks and will advise the Coordinator of space requirements. Specific duties and tasks: (1) Contact trainers and set up the training schedule for the various tracks and plenaries. (2) Serve as primary contact between the Conference Staff and the trainers/presenters. (3) Help the trainers with necessary travel arrangements. (4) Assist in the preparation of brochures and information booklets. (5) Assist with registration of participants. (6) Assist with the compilation of the Conference Report. (7) Serve, along with the Conference Logistics Coordinator, as contact with the participants. Job qualifications: Applicants are required to have a minimum of three years conference planning experience, preferably with conferences that are national in scope. Demonstrated sensitivity to issues affecting minority communities; demonstrated sensitivity to AIDS/HIV issues; excellent verbal and written skills. Applicants should be energetic and highly motivated. Knowledge of WordPerfect and bilingual skills a plus. Women, people of color, HIV+, and physically challenged encouraged to apply. To apply: Send resume and cover letter to NMAC, 300 I St., N.E., Fourth Floor, Washington, DC 20002. Attn.: Carlos Velez. Closing date: April 15, 1991. Salary: Commensurate with experience. (27)

Conference Coordinator. Overall Responsibilities: Full time position reporting to the Deputy for Programs. The conference coordinator will be in charge of the logistics for Regional Skills Building Conference under Project HEAL and the National Skills Building Conference to be held in 1991 and the two National Public Policy Round Table discussions under the public policy education program. This position will coordinate the hotel accommodations, meeting space, program and schedule distribution as well as communications to and from the conference participants. In addition, the coordinator will prepare the conference evaluations. Specific Duties and Tasks: 1. Prepare a budget for each conference, including the expected revenue and expenses, including direct and indirect labor and overhead. 2. Coordinate the selection of scholarship recipients. 3. Select the site for each conference. 4. Communicate with the hotels as to accommodations, meeting space and food and beverage arrangements. 5. Distribute the conference information to the organizations on the NMAC mailing list. 6. Coordinate participation with other agencies in partnership with NMAC. Job Qualifications: College degree or equivalent in business administration or commensurate experience in conference logistics organization, minimum two years of experience in conference planning, including hotel accommodations, food and beverage, preparation of agendas and programs, participant registration and conference evaluation. Working knowledge of travel industry standards and procedures. Applicants must have demonstrated sensitivity to AIDS/HIV issues and excellent communication skills, be energetic and highly motivated. Women, people of color, HIV+ and physically challenged encouraged to apply. To apply send resume and cover letter to NMAC, 300 I St., N.E. #400, Washington, DC 20002, to the attention of Carlos Velez. All applications are held confidential. Salary: $27,000-$30,000 per year (depending on experience) plus benefits. (26)

Development Assistant. Assists the Development Director in running the development program and managing the development office. Serves as primary administrative and clerical support for the Development Director. Reports directly to the Development Director. Supervises volunteers, facilitates communication between the Los Angeles and San Francisco NGRA staff, and works closely with the San Francisco Administrator. Has initial contact with the general public via the phone and front office. Major Activities: 1. Primary reception coverage—phone/walk-in; 2. Oversee local volunteer program, including recruitment, training, supervision and retention; 3. Purchase and maintain Los Angeles office supplies, equipment and furniture; 4. Provide administrative and clerical support for the Development Director; 5. Process fundraising campaign returns and reports; 6. Prepare daily bank deposits and income summaries; 7. Batch source material; 8. Oversee donor acknowledgement program logistics; 9. Prepare monthly pledge program reminders to donors; 10. Maintain campaign summary files; 11. Data processing for capital fundraising program. Background: Bachelor's degree. Skills: 1. Well-organized, detail oriented, works with numbers accurately; 2. Strong interpersonal skills; 3. Moderate computer and typing skills, including proficiency with Mircosoft Word and willingness to train on NGRA programs; 4. a background in office systems, management and non-profit development preferred; 5. Strong commitment to civil rights for gays, lesbians, and

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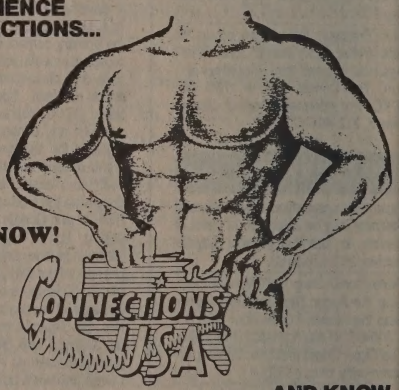

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people with HIV disease. Salary: $22,000-$26,000 (depending on experience). Location: Los Angeles. Starting Date: Immediately. Early applications are strongly encouraged. Search will continue until suitable candidate is hired. To apply please send cover letter, resume and references to: National Gay Rights Advocates, Development Assistant Search, 8901 Melrose Ave. #220, Los Angeles, CA 90069. National Gay Rights Advocates is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer. Lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, women, persons of color, and/or bilingual/bicultural individuals are strongly encouraged to apply. (26)

Director of Client Services: Overall responsibilities: Full time position reporting to the executive director, responsibility for general and specific, planning, management, grant writing, and programmatic activities of the MAP department of client services. Responsibilities include but are not limited to general client services program oversight; supervision of client service staff and consultants; management of program and individual project expenses; and program coordination with public and private agencies, funders and other MAP departments. In addition this position involves advocacy to city, county, state and federal agencies for the service needs of PWAs/PWARCs, HIV positives and their loved ones...Specific Duties and Tasks...Provide general oversight for all MAP client service programs and activities, including but not limited to case management services, in-home care, housing services, practical and psychosocial support, as well as volunteer services...Provide supervision and direction to client service staff and consultants. Establish and monitor time frames and deadlines for the completion of program tasks...Provide direction and focus for MAP on issues of client services and needs by actively participating in agency planning efforts...Perform project director responsibilities for all client service contracts and grants including but not limited to communication with contract officer(s) and the submission of required reports...Perform all other specific programmatic responsibilities and tasks assigned to the project director under contract and grant agreements involving the client services department...Monitor client services program overall and individual project expenses for compliance with budget and grant guidelines. Approve any purchase orders for program or project expenditures...Other activities, as directed, in support of the objectives and mission of the Client Services Department and the Minority AIDS Project...Job Qualifications: Applicants are required to have: a MSW degree and a California state license (LCSW); two years of supervisory experience, preferably with a community based non-profit agency; demonstrated experience working in Black and Latino/a communities; sensitivity to issues of AIDS in racial and ethnic communities, and AIDS among Gay and bisexual Black and Latino men; grant management experience: and good writing skills. Applicants should be energetic and highly motivated. Bilingual skills, a plus...Salary Range: $34,000 to $38,000. Application deadline: Open until filled. How to apply: Call or write the Minority AIDS Project for an application at 5149 West Jefferson, Los Angeles, CA 90016, (213) 936-4949. Women, People of Color, HIV+ and physically challenged encouraged to apply. (27)

Editor/Assistant for adult all-black magazine. Full or part-time. Must be familiar with Macintosh (Pagemaker or Quark X-Press). Send résumé to BFP, Box 42628, Los Angeles, CA 90050. (30)

Prevention/Outreach Specialist. The Alcoholism Center for Women is looking for a bilingual (Spanish/English), bicultural Prevention/Outreach Specialist to join Lapis, its program for Latina and other Lesbians of Color. The successful candidate will show a demonstrated ability to organize, schedule and facilitate workshops, support groups and events for specialized audiences such as incest survivors and adult daughters of alcoholics. Strong writing skills, familiarity with newsletters, an established professional network and media contacts would be considered an asset. Please call Msindo Koff, Director of Prevention and Community Services at 213-381-7805. (26)

Program Administrator. Being Alive, People with HIV/AIDS Action Coalition, is seeking creative applicants for a position as Progam Administrator. The Program Administrator is responsible for coordination of Being Alive services in the followijng areas: newsletter, speakers' bureau, support groups, advocacy, peer support and social events, to report to Executive Director and Board. The main functions of the Program Adminsitrator are to insure that these programs are maintained and documented effectively and to provide support for the large complement of HIV+ volunteers. Salary is $20,000 annually. Being Alive was founded by PWAs in 1986 and is still the only organization consisting almost exclusively of people with HIV/AIDS. For this position, experience in management of volunteers and staff is important; personal experience with HIV is essential. Women and people of color are especially urged to apply. Resumes should be sent to Being Alive, 4222 Santa Monica Blvd., L.A., CA 90029. (26)

Teachers. School's out! The Gay and Lesbian Learning Center needs teachers for fun and informative classes for gay men and lesbians. Call with ideas. 213-960-1029. (26)

West Coast Canvass Coordinator. Human Rights Campaign Fund, national lesbian and gay political organization, seeks West Coast Canvass Coordinator. Responsibilities include building/ developing our constituent mail program, Speak Out, through direct canvassing. Responsibilities will also include recruiting and supervising other individuals to coordinate canvassing events throughout the West Coast. Position will be based in the Bay Area and will travel extensively. Qualifications: outgoing, assertive, ability to work under pressure and have excellent communication skills. Previous canvass experience is beneficial but not required. Women and people of color are encouraged to apply. Send cover letter and resume to: HRCF Canvass Manager, 1012 - 14th St., N.W. #607, WDC 20005. (26)

CALLS FOR SUBMISSION

First annual Invitational Gay Pride Queer Art (Qu-Art) Show seeks artwork for show and poetry for publication. People of color and women especially encouraged to participate. Send submissions, slides, resume, statement and SASE by April 15. If poetry, limit: five poems. Show in June. Qu'Art, N. Mason, 2049 W. Superior, Chicago, IL 60612-1313. (27)

Do you have thoughts, feelings, images and words to share on what it means to be black, gay and male in America in the '90s? Express yourself in "Living in the Age of AIDS," Other Countries' forthcoming journal scheduled for publication this summer 1991. Submit graphics, essays, fiction, poetry, plays, oral histories and papers with a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Other Countries Journal, Box 3142, Church Street Sta., New York, NY 10008-3142. Deadline for submissions: March 15, 1991. (27)

Gay siblings anthology seeking manuscripts in the form of narratives or interviews telling significant, humorous, tragic or poignant stories of lesbians and gay men with their gay siblings. Non-fiction essays of all types will be considered. SASE. Deadline July 1, 1991. Don and Molly Martin, 1016 E. 7th Ave., Olympia, WA 98501. (27)

Seeking women's stories about the deaths of their mothers. There are no books that speak to the specific grief of women losing their mothers. This anthology will allow us to find strength and solace in each others experiences and insights. First person narratives, short stories and essays welcome. Send SASE for more info, or contributions by April 30, 1991 to: Helen Vozenilek, Box 18, Berekeley, CA 94701. (27)

The Conditions Collective is accepting submissions for an anthology of new writing by women on the topic of women and censorship to be published by Cleis Press. The Collective will consider fiction, poetry, analytical essays, novel excerpts, and translations on this topic. How does censorship relate to the issues of, for example, race, class, age, relationships, sexuality, women in prison, women with AIDS/HIV, and women's and lesbian movements? The writings could also explore the ramifications of censorship on future writing; the ways that women censor one another and themselves; or the homophobic hysteria over gay and lesbian writing and visual images. Black and white photographs and other visuals will also be considered. The Conditions Collective welcomes the work of women all around the world who feel that a commitment to women is an integral part of their lives. Please send submissions, before June 1, 1990, (typed, double-spaced, up to 15 pages, with a SASE for return) to: Conditions, Box 1640, New York, NY 10003. (27)

The 1991 Lesbian Writers' Fund is seeking submissions of fiction or poetry. Five grants of $11,000 each will be awarded to emerging lesbian writers of fiction and poetry. Additionally, a $5,000 Sappho Award of Distinction will be awarded to an established lesbian writer. The work of the applicant must have been published in a magazine, newspaper, literary journal or anthology. Authors of published books are not eligible for application, unless the book is self-published, or the author is the editor of the book. The 1991 deadline for application is April 5. For application forms call 212-529-8021 or write the Astraea National Lesbian Action Foundation, 666 Broadway #520, New York, NY 10012. (27)

Submissions of rap and poetry sought from lesbian and gay youth by IMRU, Southern California's longest running lesbian and gay radio program, for a special broadcast featuring rap music and verse. We're looking for rap poetry or music that's original, reflects lesbian and/or gay themes, and is positive, life affirming and empowering for lesbians and gay men. Entries containing the following will be disqualified: 1. Racism, sexism, homophobia or mean-spirited attacks on vulnerable groups of people. 2. Profanity or material even remotely connected to or connotating sexual or excretory functions or organs, due to FCC regulations on so-called "indecent" language. Submission requirements: 1. All entrants must be 18 to 24 years of age. 2. Individuals or groups may enter a maximum of two entries. 3. The following information must be provided on a 3"x5" index card: Artist's name, title of piece, format (rap song or poem), performance time (three minutes maximum), contact person's name, address and phone number (advise if discretion should be used when writing or phoning). 4. Text or lyrics of the entry must be typed only, on separate sheets of paper. Audio cassettes will be accepted only if accompanied by typed copy. No exceptions. 5. Entry deadline is April 26, 1991 at midnight. Absolutely no entries will be accepted after the deadline. All entries become property of Pacifica Radio/KPFK-FM and no entry will be returned to the entrant. Selected entries will be featured on the 14th annual KPFK Lesbian and Gay Day Radio Marathon, a 15-hour radio spectacular tentatively scheduled for July 7, 1991. To ensure broadcast quality, selected entries may be required to record or re-record materials at the KPFK. Entries should be sent to: Joey Flyer, IMRU/Overnight Productions, KPFK-FM, 3729 Cahuenga Blvd. West, North Hollywood, CA 91604. (27)

Audition tapes are currently being sought from performers wishing to entertain at the 1991 Gay and Lesbian

Visitors to D.C. should call in advance of arrival. (29)

White male, middle age, enjoys the company and friendship of black males for dinner, theater and quiet times. John, Box 10042, Staten Island, NY 10310. (29)

Very lonely black gent, retired professional, 65, silver-haired, medium brown skin, very short, stocky (5'2", 155), shy, submissive, servile, plain looking, conversationalist, Fr/Act only; eagerly seeks male (only) friends, guests (blacks, Hispanics, any race/age) who are clean, intelligent, dominant, large, macho, Fr/Pass., verbally aggressive (no drugs, S/M), discreet. 212-681-0179 evenings only 9-11:30 p.m. Dave R., 930 Grand Concourse #6B, Bronx, N.Y. 10451. No inmates. (27)

White male, 32, 160, brown hair, blue eyes, seeking young males for friends/sexual partners. Prefer cute, slim, smooth, cut, clean-shaven boyish Northern European, black and Southeast Asians. Like music, philosophy, science, health food. Am honest, sensitive, sincere. Live-in possible. No V.D., kinky/slutty types. Photo a must (preferably revealing)! Ron, Box 307, Irvington, NJ 07111-1940. (31)

GBM, masculine, intelligent seeks GM. Box 400665, Brooklyn, NY 11240. (28)

Muscular, hard runner's build. Hot, sensual, HIV-, hung, versatile. Smooth, upbeat professional GWM, 44, 5'5", 128 lbs., enjoying fitness, outdoors, humor, arts, work, romance, travel, seeks warm-spirited, firm-bodied, hot-blooded, creative-minded, healthy-habited GBM, 30-45, any location, for fun/friendship/relationship. Rick, Box 4102, Utica, NY 13504. (27)

BiBM, 25, 5'9", hazel eyes, seeks black or Latino homeboy type, 18-26, in N.Y.C. area with athletic build for occasional, boy-to-boy fun. Must be disease-free. Send ph/ph. Let's do this. BLK Mailbox #119. (28)

Black male, 31, 190 lbs., stocky muscular build, seeks white males, 28-50, from Connecticut to Maine. I will be relocating to Newport, R.I. June or July 1991. (27)

Hot blooded, masculine, black Southern buck, 25, with hot Southern comfort to offer. Interested in masculine GBM everywhere. I'm extremely fond of medium to large physique men, however, slender men are welcome also. Send your hottest letters and photos in exchange for mine. (No fats or fems, please.) Marc, Box 12143, Cola, SC 29211. (29)

Black hung seeking black hung. Box 602, Huntsville, Alabama 35804. (28)

Hung GBM, 50s, top, seeks hairy Hispanic bottom. BLK Mailbox #120. (27)

GBM, 20, seeks GWM for relationship. Box 1825, Rahway, NJ 07065. (28)

Masculine GBM wanted by goodlooking GBM, 24, for friendship/fun. Send letter/picture to: Boxholder, Box 2122, New York 10008-2122. (28)

GWM, 48, goodlooking, masculine appearance, HIV-, caring, down to earth guy, seeks young, masculine BM, 18-30 for serious relationship, Box 547, Bridgehampton, NY 11932. (29)

NY, frottage (rubbing/j.o.), GPR/GMAD, social, safe, 20-40, frottage. 212-491-7228. (26)

GBM, 24, 5'11", 165 lbs., in Washington, D.C. area, mature, very attractive and straight acting/appearance, enjoys playing baseball, basketball, tennis. I am seeking someone for possible friendship/something serious with GBM/BiBM, 25-43. Like I, you must be healthy, sexy, a little romantic, spiritually conscious, straightforward, discreet (not paranoid), comfortable with yourself/sexuality. Important that you have an awareness and concern of the black community and its struggles. Knowledge or willing to learn of your black culture/heritage a plus. Must be someone who is serious and realizes life and relationships consist of more than just sex, but of respect for yourself, me, our families and friends! Could I be asking too much? Let's make my first ad a success! No effeminates! BLK Mailbox #123 (27)

GWM, 31, seeks GBM. R.G., Box 83, Hackensack, NJ 07602-0083. (29)

Lean, muscular, GBM, top, 52, 6', 155, seeks fit, muscular, intelligent bottoms, into camping, hiking, nudism, travel, all ages/races. J. Tree, Box 161, S.I., NY 10304. (29)

GWM, 39, 5'9", 165. NY City. Intelligent, energetic, low key, sexually alive, looking for similar man who is black, and who is interested in at least some of the following: music, books, jogging, gym, travel, movies, plays, museums, computers. Goal: relationship. Please send letter and photo (if possible). I'm serious! BLK Mailbox #116. (26)

GWM, continental, refined, personable, safe, hospitable, in his 50s, seeks hung BM for worship and devotion. 212-677-4159. (29)

Gay white male, 41, straight-acting and ex-military, seeks black friends anywhere. Will answer all. Mike Thomas, Box 16911, Greensboro, NC 27416(27)

Hot-assed white boy, 33, 5'9", 152, goodlooking and submissive, needs dominant, verbal, very masculine topman, black or Latin, to make me service and worship you and your buddies. Will wear panties and be your pussyboy. Will write to real men anywhere, even in prison. Box 581, N.Y., N.Y. 10274. (26)

WM, 53, seeks thin, romantic, clean black male in Boston. BLK Mailbox #113. (28)

Congenial WM ISO BM. Box 284, Hartford, CT 06141-0284. (TF)

MEN'S PERSONALS CENTRAL U.S.

Houston: GWM, 52, 5'7½", HIV-, bottom, wants very large black men, horse hung, to enjoy this hungry ass. Send photo and address. BLK Mailbox #122. (27)

GBM, 36, 5'8", 140. Educated, articulate, seeks penpals, possible relationship. Answer all. Photo exchange. Box 30, #872944, Pendleton, IN 46064(27)

WM, 30, 5'7", 150 lbs., goodlooking, wants to be submissive sexually by goodlooking BM. I'm into leather, and like it wild and freaky. I have a bubble butt; you must have one too. No fats or femmes. We'll start as friends and see what develops. Detroit. 313-527-2965. (26)

Incarcerated male to be released in under a year. Now that you know my bad side. I'm a white male, 27 years old, 5'6", 150 lbs., green eyes, with long brown hair. Wide variety of interests that range from weightlifting, bikes, traveling, nature, etc. Pretty down to earth guy who enjoys the easier things in life. Honesty and loyalty are my two strongest points along with a good character and an easy laugh. I have an open mind, therefore, I am an easy person to converse with, and encourage meaningful conversation. I feel the sole purpose of life is to simply be happy and enjoy it as it comes. I'd like to hear from a mature gentlemen for friendship, companionship. Please write to M. Leonard, #875533, Box 30, Pendleton, IN 46064. I hope to hear from you soon. (27)

Black gay male seeks a mentally and physically stimulating relationship with gay male. You: healthy sense of humor, positive outlook, willing and capable of being equal and sharing mate, best friend, lover in a healthy, trusting, honest relationship. Me: attractive, 43 years, 5'7", muscular, 160 lbs., nonsmoker, drinker or drug user, with a masculine demeanor and variety of interests. Send letter and photo, Chas., Box 524, Cincinnati, OH 45201. (28)

GMW, 5'10", 155, 35, ISO GBM 18-30 for friendship and possibly more. Relocating to Dayton, Ohio area soon and need roommate/housemate. Respond with photo to Ron, Box 17474, Arlington, VA 22216. Let's talk. Trust me, you can't go wrong. Pen pals welcome(28)

Incarcerated male, 33, black, seeking friendship with gay bottom. Christopher Galloway, Box 45699, Lucasville, OH 45699-0001. (27)

Listen up, fellas. GBM, 30, 6'1", 210 lbs., masculine build, college football jock, top, professional. I'm looking for a GBM, Carribean, South American, Oriental bottom, ages 25 to 45. No fatties. I'm HIV-, willing to travel to East Coast, Midwest, Southeast U.S.A. Looking for that special someone who is interested in dining, movies, jazz, fitness. A bottom who wants to be with someone who wants to make you happy. Please send letter, photos. Nude photo will get even faster reply. Mail to BLK Mailbox #110. I am very passionate. I like to give a warm massage and rub you all over. (28)

GWM, 30s, blond, 5'9", 140 lbs., athletic, masculine, movies, travel, working out, etc. seeks athletic GBM or BiBM, under 40 years old, for safe, hot encounters. Top/bottom. 312-327-4895. (28)

GWM wants relationship. Dennis Pitman, #882430, Box 30, Pendleton, IN 46064. (29)

Masculine black man wanted by masculine white 40s businessman. Your age/education are not important. I'm willing to help with education/employment/relocation. 2421 Pratt, Chicago 60645. (26)

Gay black father seeks friendship/relationship with other gay fathers black or white or those who appreciate children who have reached adolescent age. I am a warm sensitive romantic in search of others who are family-oriented. Write Ly-Leh, Box 144, Evergreen, LA 71333. (29)

White, 38, lonely, hot. J. Evans, 610 N. Henrietta, Effingham, IL 62401. (29)

GWM, 27, Brett Short, Box 30, 17-3/A, Pendleton, IN 46064 (26)

WM, 35, 6', 175, masculine, muscular and very athletic is seeking mature man, 36-55 for relationship. I am professionally employed, honest and nonpromiscuous. You must be sincere, non-promiscuous and very masculine. Type of employment unimportant but I prefer a rugged, broad-shoulders type, 200 lbs. or more in weight. Beer gut okay. Box 88391, Indianapolis, IN 46208. (26)

MEN'S PERSONALS WESTERN U.S.

Caribbean man wants tops with thick dicks. Box 18714, Denver, CO 80218. (29)

Hot white bottom seeks hot black tops. I'm 27, goodlooking, with a hot butt that knows how to open up and out. I travel Oregon, California often. Rich V., 19924 Aurora Ave. #141, North Seattle, WA 98133. (26)

BGM seeks WGM bear leather. Photo. Occupant, Box 1128. Reno, Nevada 89504. (26)

GWM, 55, 5'8", 150, attractive Utah professional, seeks GBM or Latin athlete, non-smoker, non-drinker, non-drug user. If you fit this description and are seriously looking for a quality one-one relationship, call 801-364-2523. (32)

Northern California

BM looking for BM. I am 5'10", 30 years old, 160 lbs., workout, have good job. If you would like a date, send photo to 438 Staten #302, Oakland, CA 94610. (29)

Phone sex. Black men only. 415-775-4919. (29)

Uncut man wanted. Hot blue-eyed blond HIV- man, 48, seeks uncut G/L guy wanting a rare honest loving man that will wine, dine and pump him. No bullshit. C.R., 751 Laurel Ave. #428, San Carlos, CA 94070. Must send picture/phone number. Otherwise, no reply. (26)

WM, slender, cute ass, mature, seeks hung BM. Boxholder A, Box 10436, Oakland, CA 94610. (26)

2 GWMs, 40 years old, seek heavy hung GBM for fun and safe sex.

The Legal Stuff

■ **Complete and sign the following. None of this information will appear in your ad.**

Name_____

Address_____

City_____

State_____ Zip_____

Phone (_____) _____

■ I am an adult of legal voting age and consent to the placing of my ad in BLK. I understand that the Blk Publishing Company is in no way responsible for any transactions between myself and any persons I contact through its publications.

Signed_____

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■ **All other ads** take the rate of 40 cents per word.

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BLK Classifieds
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Los Angeles, California 90083-0912

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■ Deadline: First Friday of the month of publication.
■ Ads received after deadline will appear in the following issue.
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■ Completely free ads may only be placed by mail.
■ Ads that are not completely free may be paid by check, Visa, MasterCard or American Express. Do not send cash.
■ Send to: BLK Classifieds, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912.

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■ Minimum for credit card billing is $15 whether by phone or by mail.

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Credit card number_____

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■ **Print clearly what you want to appear in your ad. Use a separate sheet if you need more space.**

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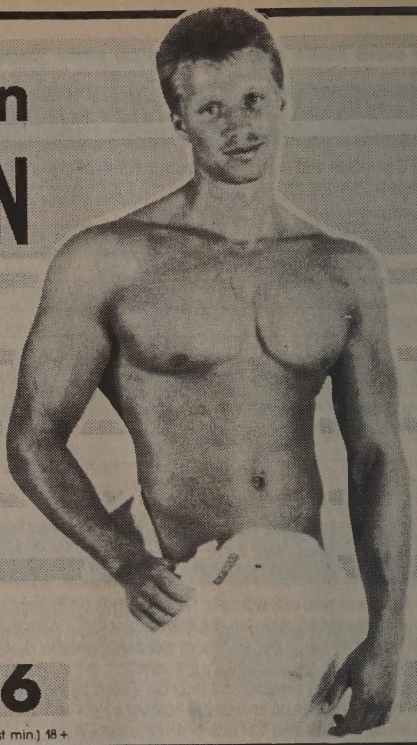

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Pride Festival, June 22-23 in West Hollywood Park. Entertainment will be featured on Main stage as well as a newly designed Country Stage and at the disco dancing pavilion. Acts being sought include comedians, magicians, singers and dancers performing all varieties of entertainment such as country western, rock 'n roll and jazz. Disc jockeys are needed for the Disco Pavilion as well as for the Country Western Dance area. Entertainers and DJs should submit audition tapes (audio cassette or VHS video) to the Entertainment Committee, Christopher Street West/Los Angeles, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd. #109-24, West Hollywood, CA 90046. The deadline for submissions is April 1. (26)

Submissions wanted for 1991 Spinsters Book Company Lesbian Fiction Contest to find novel-length, well-crafted fiction that focuses on the lives of lesbians. Manuscripts will go through a judging process, with the best five going to a finals judge. The finals judge will change each year, the selection to reflect the diversity of writers we seek to publish. The winner (announced in August) will be given a contract to publish her novel with Spinsters and $2,000 in prize money (which is in addition to any royalties she earns on the book). The book will be published in the spring of 1992. Form: 1. Submissions must be postmarked no earlier than January 2 and no later than February 28 of 1991. 2. Mark clearly on the outside of the envelope: "Contest Submission." 3. Each entry must be a single work of fiction, 200 to 350 manuscript pages in length. No previously published works, works already accepted for publication or works being considered by other publishers may be submitted. 4. Manuscripts must be typewritten and double-spaced on 8-1/2 x 11 paper. Computer printouts must be of letter quality in dark ink. 5. Author's name cannot appear on the manuscript. Include a cover letter with the title of the work, your name, address and phone number. Judges will not see cover sheets. 6. Please do not send originals, as manuscripts will not be returned. Send a self-addressed, stamped postcard if you wish to be notified that your manuscript has arrived. 7. Please no phone calls. No revisions will be accepted during the judging process. Revisions for the winning manuscript will of course be considered and discussed during the editing process. Content: Content must be well-crafted fiction focusing, in some part, on the life or lives of lesbians. We wish to encourage fiction that treats lesbian lifestyles with the honesty and complexity they deserve. Announcement of Finalists and Winner: In June, five finalists will be notified by mail. Within one month these finalists must provide Spinsters Book Company with the following: a) a signed agreement that, if selected, the author will sign a contract with Spinsters; b) a signed agreement that, if selected, the author will be available for media interviews; and c) a black-and-white photograph suitable for media reproduction. Failure to provide any of the above will automatically disqualify contestant. In August, the winner and remaining finalists will be contacted by phone. All other contestants will be notified by mail. At that time the winner's name will be announced to major media, including lesbian and alternative media. Both the judge and the winner of the First Annual Lesbian Fiction Contest will be announced in September of 1990. Award: The winner of the Spinsters Lesbian Fiction Contest will receive a cash prize of $2,000 (which is not an advance against royalties but a sum above royalties) and a Spinsters standard contract to publish, which will incorporate Spinsters' standard royalty schedule. Send manuscripts to: Spinsters Book Company, Box 410687, San Francisco, CA 94141. (26)

PLACES TO LIVE

House for rent. Looking for 2 or 3 responsible people to rent a large beautiful house in the Crenshaw-Baldwin Hills area. 2 large bedrooms, large dining room, living room, breakfast room, fireplace, large front and back yard. 2-car garage. Washer and dryer. $500 month. Price negotiable. 213-733-1681. Call anytime. (27)

The West Adams area. One bedroom apartment near Arlington and 37th Place in quiet, charming older triplex. Also ideal for seniors. $575 month. 213-938-5029. (26)

FOR SALE

Heat! Chicago black men in erotic photos! For sampler set send: Age (21+), signature, $10 to Zebra Studios, Box 138271, Chicago, IL 60613. (28)

True GB sex stories by white man. Mail SASE to 1800 Market #230. S.F. 94102. (27)

Gay magazines. Pack of 6 hot used magazines. Just $15. P&H, Inc. Send check or M.O. to Island Marketing, 127 S. Shore Dr., Island Lake, IL 60042, State you are 21. (37)

BLK T-shirts, sweatshirts, key tags, back issues, note cards, etc. now available mail order. Write: BLK Mail and Femail Store Catalog, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. Or call 800-TRUE-BLK, anytime 24 hours a day, seven days a week. (TF)

MASSEURS

Big, black and hairy, 38, 6'1", 175 lbs., lean, fit, top man, hung 8x6, cut, $50 min. in/out, ask for Mike. 213-874-9203. (29)

Randy Cochran. 818-997-3776. L.A.'s hot top black studman. Hung huge, yet versatile. 28, 5'9", 160 lbs., with a tight smooth body. 24-hour, in-out sessions. $125-$200/hr. Video titles include "Black Attack," "Heatwaves," "Black Force" and many more. Visits are in person...Not associated with 976-WOLF. Safe sex okay. (29)

The Real McCoy. Very handsome Italian professional, 29, great body, offers custom-tailored 5-star bodywork to the discerning man. Atmosphere, style, technique and more. Quite simply...the best! 213-288-6800. (31)

Professional massage. You've seen the rest. Now deal with the best. Licensed/non-sexual massage. Call for appointment. 465-8147. Ask for Lamont. (26)

Attractive, well-built white guy, 29, 5'7", 135, offers deep, thorough relaxing massage to other in-shape guys, candelight, table. $40 in West Hollywood; $? out. Greg 213-288-6416. (26)

I'm Thomas, a tall, goodlooking white masseur near Plam Springs airport. Let me work on your stressed-out body and soul. 619-322-8077. (27)

Rugged Brazilian. Full body massage by a handsome 6'2", 205 lbs. bodybuilder. Legit with table. $50/in. $75/out. West Hollywood location. 24 hours. Tony, 213-274-8070. (26)

Stop. Handsome, bubble-butted athlete will rub you in all the right spots. Don't be duped by phony masseurs. Let my legit, certified hands do the walking on your stressed body. $40 in. $60 out. 95% recall. Call Bryan. 213-224-0243. 24 hours. (29)

WOMEN'S PERSONALS

Hampton Roads Virginia area. Single, black bisexual female, professional, 31, in search of feminine lesbian or bi-female for relationship varied interests. No fats, drugs, drugs or marrieds. Photo and note appreciated to BLK Mailbox #121. (27)

BF, 26, student, not looking for romance through this ad. However, I would like to exchange postcards, short notes or long letters with women from all over. I live in Detroit. BLK Mailbox #107. (27)

Soulful, diamond in the raw, 19, African-American ISO lasting friendships with multi-cultured, positive lesbian sisters USA/abroad (18-?). Will answer all. Maria, Route 1, Box 134-C2, Flora, MS 39071-9740. (29)

Fluffy, feminine, early 40s, fun-loving, witty, sensitive, romantic, who appreciates nature, intimacy, looking for independent butch. I am 5'7½", sexy, plump. Seek friendship first. Who knows what can happen? BLK Mailbox #115. (28)

Professional GBF, 5'8", 160 lbs., 39 years, seeks fems with no drugs, alcohol or smoking. Prefer Christian lady. Let's give it a try for lasting relationship. I've been celibate for the past 3 years. For special times now. I love to please, and passion's my first name. Curious? BLK Mailbox #103. (26)

MEN'S PERSONALS INTERNATIONAL

Young, nice looking, passive Brazilian gay boy, 30 years old, golden skin, sweet smile, dreamful eyes, seeks masculine, active, black gay men, any age, for exchange of letters and possible coming meeting. Write in English soon. Diogo Fontenelle, rua Gustavo Sampaio, 301, 60.455 Fortaleza, Ceara, Brazil. (26)

Attractive Frenchman, 37, 5'11", 165 lbs., good hairy body, Greek active, well-traveled, multi-lingual, seeks very muscular, masculine, Greek passive, black or Puerto Rican friends, 19-35. Visitors welcome to Paris. Photo, please. BLK Mailbox #104. (26)

Visiting Italy? Bearded couple awaits BMs. D. Russo, Via Massena 51, Torino 10128, Italy. (29)

Dutch GWM, attractive, 36, wants to correspond with GBM and exchange photos. Tony Spoelstra, Box 4017, 8600 GA, Sneek, Holland. (26)

Active Japanese seeks muscular BM. Fujinuma, Nihontsutsumi 2-16-6, Taitoku, Tokyo, Japan. (29)

GWM, teddy-bear, seeks dominant BM tops for intimate friendship and fun. Doug, #103-4800 Arbutus, Vancouver, BC V6J 4A5. 604-263-3991. (TF)

MEN'S PERSONALS EASTERN U.S.

Are there any black and Latin tops out there? Haven't been able to find any. Prove you're not an endangered species! PR bottom would like to meet you. Age or dick size not important. Must look/act straight. I'm 40, 140 lbs., 5'11", slim. Write to: Louis, Box 642, Corona-Elmhurst, NY 11373-0642. Letter with photo and/or phone gets answered first. (28)

Attractive, masculine, GBM, 25, would like to meet GBM from everywhere who could teach an inexperienced ex-prisoner of guilt about being gay. The joy of gay sex! Am very eager to learn. Send your hottest letters and nude photos. In return you'll get mine. M.T., Box 12143, Cola, SC 29209. No fems, please!(29)

Attractive, educated black male, masculine, healthy, witty, funny, romantic, budding screenwriter, 5'9", 165 pounds, 32, nice brown bod, seeks a goodlooking, masculine, muscular, bearded, Sam Elliot or Bruce Willis type, professional, thirtysomething, creative, smart, who enjoys art, cinema, jazz, country weekends, snuggle bundling, cozy intimacy, cream and berries in bed, and delicious monogamy. Serious males only. Photo desired. Michael, Box 350, Richmond, Virginia 23202. (26)

GWM, 43, BB, handsome, 195 lbs., hairy, versatile, 6', seeks lean, muscular, defined, sincere, honest, GBM with washboard abdominals. Photo necessary. Box 6A, 111 Montague St., Brooklyn, NY 11201. (27)

You: BGM. Me: Frustrated. Help! Box 130, Pennsauken, NJ 08110. (29)

Nice guy seeks same for friendship. This 50-year-old straight-acting WM is looking for a very masculine BM. Pleasant disposition, positive outlook and stability are important to me. Blue collar, thick endowment and trim build are pluses. Send detailed letter and photo of yourself to: BLK Mailbox #118 or call 301-779-6738. Pen pals welcome.

(Temecula area.) Reply to Occupant, Box 885, Winchester, CA 92396. (28)

Cute GBM, 33, 150 lbs., 5'5", short but deep bottom seeks top masculine black bi or gay men for friendship and fun. Write Box 70571, Oakland, CA 94612. (26)

Goodlooking WM blows blacks. Travels. Box 3271, Daly City, CA 94015. (26)

White sucks, eats, drinks blacks. Bring beer. My place. 415-928-7736. (26)

Huge white hole eats dildos. Stretch it! Call hole. 415-585-8717. (28)

BGM looking for penpals. Emmette Mitchell, C-22649, L318, Box 2000, Vacaville, CA 95696-2000. (26)

GBM, 33, bottom, seeks top bi or GBM, discreet, bright. Box 70571, Oakland, CA 94612. (33)

San Diego Area

Sapien erectus! Wanna unload? It's O.K.! Phone 619-292-1922 now! (29)

Beefy GWM stud seeking expert oral service. Call Larry, 619-324-8964. (28)

Palm Springs topman seeking playmates! Boxholder #3337, PS, CA 92263. (28)

European GM, 36, 5'6", 150 lbs., blond, blue, moustache, hairy, smoker, HIV+, healthy, intelligent and affectionate seeks friendship with mature, sincere black man 18+ to 50. Looks unimportant. BLK Mailbox #111. (26)

GWM, masculine, top man. Larry, Box 3337, Palm Springs, CA 92263. (28)

English GWM, 53, friends for correspondence or ? Desert, mountains, sun. Race, age, size immaterial. Photo with letter, please. G.J., Box 285, Adelanto, CA 92301. (26)

WM wants serious BM. Ted, 619-696-0980. (26)

Los Angeles Area

GBM, 60, 6', 175 lbs., interested in meeting GAM, 50 to 60. Have own transportation. Like bowling, some sports, going to very small parties. Do not like heavy drink or drugs. Prefer non-smoker. Like weekend trips and long distance travel. If sex, safe only. BLK Mailbox #109. (27)

Attractive BGM, 6'3", 215 lbs., with big juicy ass and thighs, you know the story, seeks black bi- or gay freaks, uh, tops, for hot and heavy sessions! Participants and voyeurs welcome. Rudy, Box 1684, L.A., CA 90078. (26)

BM seeks Asians, blacks and Latins with juicy butts or vaginas for good times. Call 213-465-8968. Serious callers only! (27)

Handsome black man, 35, 195#, well-built, who likes to workout with weights and jog on a daily basis, would like to meet honest, sincere person for friendship, black or white, who loves the outdoors and some sports. Rod, 213-733-1681. (27)

Bi cowboy, masculine, with tight lean smooth body and hot hard bubble butt (pussy ass), seeks big, muscular, Latins or bisexual GBM tops for safe rides. Sincere only. 213-438-1421. (26)

If you're a tall healthy GBM with a big cock, call Lee at 818-896-8890. This GL blond wants to please you. (26)

Commitment and values: B/M, 38, 5'11", 170, G/P, seeks an affectionate, tall, G/A white or black top man, 40-55, who lives 1-to-1, homelife, mountains and stability. Mel, Box 712427, L.A. 90071, 213-656-0258, ext. 22 (28)

Hot, sexy, intelligent freak! 25 year old 6'2", 170 lb. black brother, looking for someone who can work it! You: black/Puerto Rican, 21-30something, intelligent, goodlooking, tall, nice firm body, preferably uncut, who works in more ways than one! M.H., 213-296-2906. (27)

Boxer shorts, tattooed uncuts wanted by hunk. Box 39881, Los Angeles 90039-0881. (28)

Single Latin guy looking to meet someone honest and sincere. Attractive with a sense of humor. I'm normal and down to earth. You be too. Masculine types only. Call 818-890-0307. Keep trying. (26)

Cute blond bottom seeks giant buffed dominant men. 818-765-5132. (28)

Cruise mate wanted for R.S.V.P. French Canadian cruise. Me: super extra goodlooking, 32 years, French Canadian, hung 9½x6½. Seek young man, same. 714-494-1114 (26)

Handsome, 41, GBM, professional, sexy, seeks young GBM or GWM, 22-28, for fun, hot times, romance, adventure and possible relationship. You should be attractive, well-built, intelligent, enjoy music, movies, dining out, romance, and long, slow, warm lovemaking in front of my fireplace. Photo/phone/letter a must. We've both been looking for each other. Now it's up to you. BLK Mailbox #114. (27)

Me: WM, 5'9", HIV+, hairy, 37. You: man of color, HIV+, versatile and sincere. Al, 213-665-1304. Thank you. (28)

WM, attractive, 31, 5'7", 135#, shoulder-length dark brown hair and eyes, gym-going, non-stereotypical, health-conscious, homebody, professional, independent, witty seeks similar white or black guy for uncomplicated pleasure. Photo/phone, descriptive letter to Jeff, c/o R.E., Box 3790, Beverly Hills, CA 90212. (26)

Oversexed, handsome, bisexual jock, worships foreskins. Box 4455, Terminal Annex, L.A. 90051-2455. Brother Ed. (26)

BBM, professional, seeks, TV/TS for ser relationship. Jim 213-876-7949. (28)

Sexy, white drag queen loves black dick (French/Greek). 415-461-4135. (28)

If your sex black tool is extra large (diameter and/or length) I challenge you to try me. I am 35 years old, Latino, 140 pounds, 5'7", bilingual. Letter and/or nude photo. Mr. V., Box 761326, Los Angeles, CA 90076. (31)

Trying again. Black male, 33 years old, attractive, looking for other males. Possible relationship. I'm 5'10", 150 lbs., a top wishing to find that special bottom. Must be 21-35 years old, attractive and black. No fats or fems. Call 213-469-5426. (26)

Let my tongue explore that hot black smooth, masculine body. Hungry, white, butch handsome male, 35, 175, 5'11" wants young very big, beefy, black, hung, straight-acting top dudes only. Black football player and construction worker types only. Check it out. Put my tongue to work. Box 46841, Los Angeles, CA 90046. (26)

GWM with a nice smile, a witty sense of humor and the boy next door charm and sexuality. Personable, hung and very goodlooking GBM, 6'2" and muscular, 198 lbs. yours for the asking. BLK Mailbox #112. (26)

Black male wanted to share home and life with. Me: Stable affectionate, white male, HIV neg., 50s, 6', 178 pounds. You: 30-45. Will 818-362-2022. (27)

Handsome, muscular GBM, financially independent. I enjoy playing and watching sports, movies, dinners. Seek same for friendship, any race. Bottoms only. No games. Bob 818-798-4205. (28)

White seeks black for friendship and more. GWM, 32, body-builder, seeks GBM, 27 to 40. Me: honest, energetic, intelligent, mature, passionate, loving, assertive but versatile, capable of compromise, professional, handsome, masculine, muscular, brown hair, blue eyes, 6'2", 195#, 8x5½", bubble-butt. You: similar man of excellent character, ready and capable of being an equal partner, 6'2" to 6'5", 9x6½+", dark and muscular and healthy. Call 619-322-6292. You won't be bored! (31)

Attractive and successful black writer seeks intelligent and articulate man of any race for travel, dating, romance. I am 30, 5'9", 140, swimmer. Call, leave message, 213-222-1115, or write Box 421145, Los Angeles, CA 90042. (29)

Black male, 35, 175 pounds, 5'8", bottom, wants to meet bodybuilder for mutual workouts. 818-913-1575. Race not important. (30)

Skip this ad for graphic descriptions. Certainly not an S not M either. Just a mutual bonding kind of guy. Okay a few stats are only fair: GBM, 29, some say beautiful, working artist, financially independent, using this option for meeting new friends. I have a vague preference for Hispanic, white or European men around my age with more knowledge of the written word than Gold's Gym. BLK Mailbox #108. (27)

Sincere GWM seeks GBM for relationship. I'm 31, 5'10", 135 lbs., HIV neg., bottom, smooth, inteiigent and warm. You are 20-35, masculine, top, stable, professional and ready for a lover who is not into bars, smoke or head games. Box 91313, Long Beach, CA 90809. I can wait as long as it takes for the right man. (26)

Black dick seeks black bottoms/mouths. Box 191272, Los Angeles, 90019. (26)

Attractive, masculine, GBM looking for in-shape, muscular men to play racquetball or tennis with. Bobby 818-798-4205. (28)

BGM would like to meet BGM for relationship. Must be honest and into safer sex. Louis, 213-274-6272. (28)

Discreet professional black male seeks chubby, muscular, husky and body-builder-type black guys with super, super big thighs and super, super big bubble butts for friendship. 213-933-3098. (26)

Seeking advice for L.A. relocation. Box 9452, Elizabeth, NJ 07202-9992. (28)

Hot, raunchy, white wants domination. Box 86651, L.A., CA 90086. (28)

White dad, 50, professional artist, seeks black son, any age. Must be chemical free, muscular, obedient and growth-oriented. Leave message with name, number and qualifications. 213-481-1360. (26)

Handsome football player, built, dude, hung long and thick 11 x 7½, seeks other hot hung for safe good times. Drake 213-734-2042. (27)

Men of Color: To me, cocksucking is almost a sacrament. Allow me to accommodate your dick, giving you the service you dream about. Put me in my sling, put on a condom and slide my ass over your dickhead, and up and down your shaft. GWM, 39, 5'10", 195#, beard/moustache. 818-792-6758. (26)

Attractive GBM, HIV+, healthy, 5'7", 34, and appealing hunk, warm, loving and extremely affectionate, seeking a dominant and masculine GBM (fully equipped) with the same qualities. Muscles not important, height above 6'2" a+ (but not required). No queens, rude sissies and bar flies should dial my number. I'm seeking a serious 1-1 friendship/relationship. If you enjoy lots of affection, attention, beach, movies, exercise and romantic nights, call Jay 213-840-6398, leave your name and phone and I'll call you back. (26)

GBM, 6', 200 lbs., 40, healthy HIV+, seeks other husky stocky versatile, masculine men for friendship and sex. 1064 Myra #141, Los Angeles, CA 90029. (26)

Attractive GBM, HIV+, healthy, 5'7", 34, an appealing hunk, warm, loving, enjoys working out, movies and romantic nights. Can be extremely affectionate with the right person! I'm seeking a dominant and masculine GBM, with same qualities. You must be financially independent, ambitious and goal-oriented. Muscles not important (slim and athletic types welcomed). I'm looking for a kind and loving person who is willing to share his life with me. If you enjoy lots of attention, cuddling and fun, call Mikey 213-298-5626. (27)

A very handsome, middle-Eastern guy, 34, 5'9", 150 lbs., black hair, brown eyes, light-brown skin, trim, masculine, healthy, intelligent, romantic, candlelit, sports, music, down-to-earth, and very discreet. Looking for one-to-one friendship with a black or Latino guy, who is safe, sincere, honest, masculine and top. If interested, please call at 818-242-3636 after 6:00 p.m. (27)

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BLK

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Whole No. 31
June 1991

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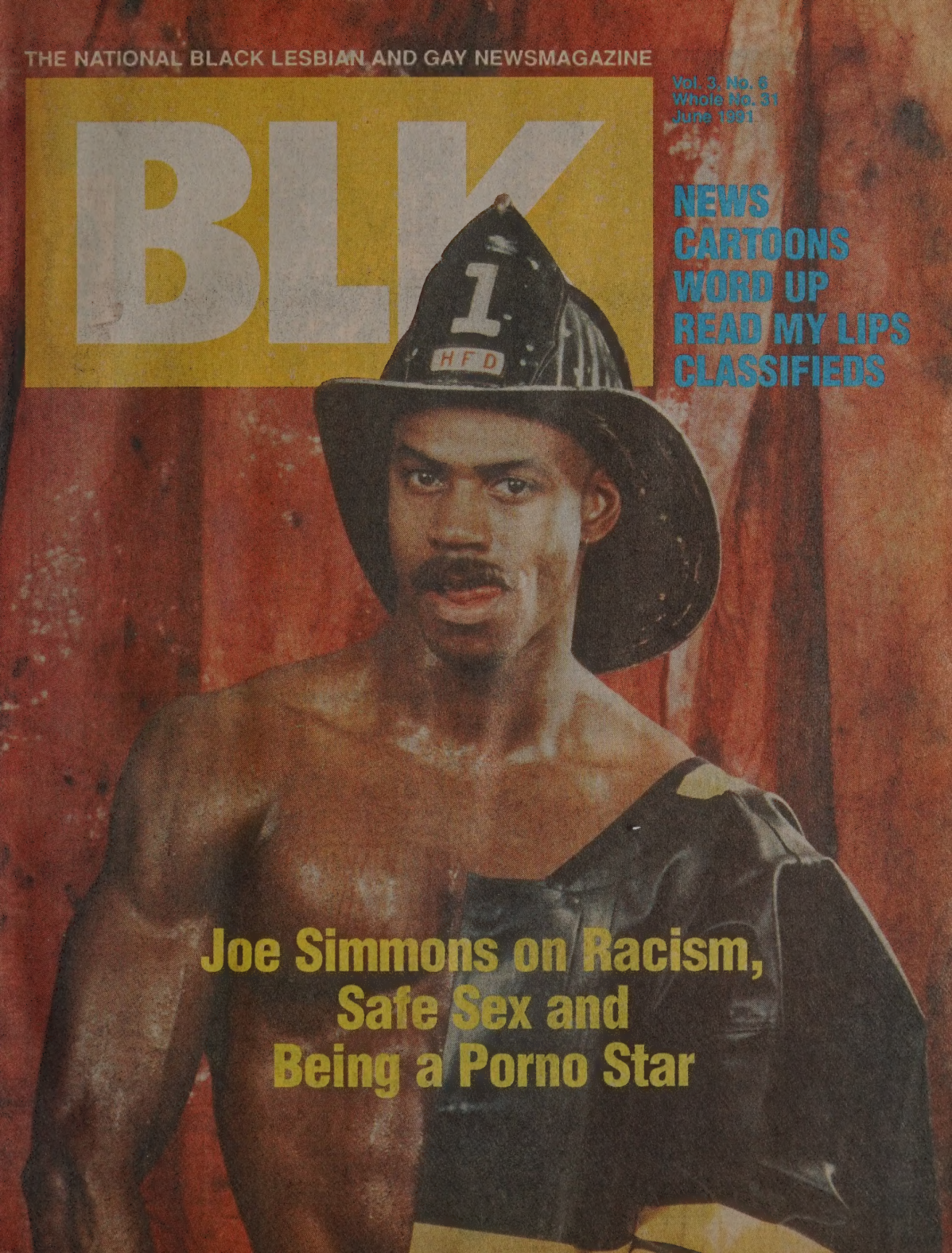

Joe Simmons on Racism, Safe Sex and Being a Porno Star

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Word Up

News of the Outrageous, the Amusing, the Pathetic and the Unexpected by Leon Miller

Restricted to God Fearing Whites

Paul Wysocki of the Santa Clara County Human Relations Commission sent me a copy of a flyer a friend received inviting him to join a newly-organizing leather club in Northern California. Among other things the flyer indicated that the new club would be restricted to "God fearing whites."

No one seems to know the identity of the organizers, if club plans have been shelved, or if they are going like a cross afire. Nothing has been heard from them since.

'In Living Color' and Men on Fire

In Living Color has been in trouble with the black community, the gay community and the black gay community, among other communities. Now it's in trouble with the firefighting community.

It seems resident *In Living Color* character Fire Marshal Bill, who has a penchant for setting fires, is also setting a bad example in fire safety for small children.

"Fire Marshal Bill is saying you can stick a fork into a receptacle and get shocked and not get burned, and you can stick your hand on a stove and get a nice circle pattern," argues William Schultz, president of the New Jersey Fire Prevention and Protection Association.

Saying that *In Living Color* is one of the top three shows viewed by children, Schultz has threatened a nationwide fireman boycott of the show if Fire Marshal Bill isn't extinguished.

Getting in Whitney's Pants

Continuing her new policy of talking *about* questions that have been raised concerning her sexuality rather than denying (or affirming) it one way or the other, Whitney Houston had this to say in the May *Playboy*.

"What people really see is the closeness between Robyn and me. Even when we were kids growing up, people thought we were gay. I think it had a lot to do with Robyn's being athletic and playing basketball and being very much into fitness.

"Then she got me into it. That has followed us. People were like, 'Yeah. Yeah. They're gay. They're lesbos.' But I know part of the reason is that most men who say that want to jump into my pants. So they just think, Well, she's gay. She don't want to be bothered. So she must be gay."

Well, I know quite a few men who say it. And I doubt if they'd want to jump into the superstar's fabulous pants, unless, of course, she wasn't wearing them.

As for the *women* I know...

The National **ran this Associated Press photo by Jeff Topping with the following caption: "Having fun: José Canseco, who reported to camp Wednesday, clowns with teammate Harold Baines during workout."**

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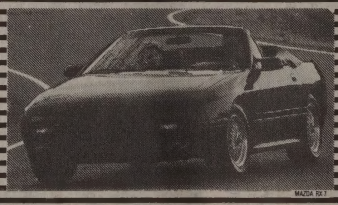

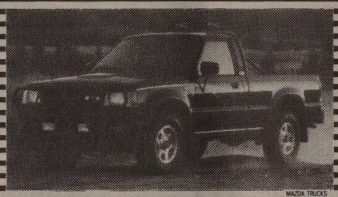

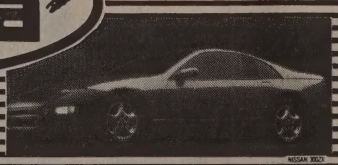

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ON THE COVER: Joe Simmons.

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Photo by Robert Mapplethorpe

Joe Simmons

Black gay adult film actor talks about racism, safe sex and being a porno superstar

By Alan Bell

The actors in erotic films have always been some of the most recognized faces in the gay community. And the now ubiquitous VCR has increased their visibility among a new, more cautious population that in years past would never have set foot in a public theater showing gay male fare.

While prejudice among some gay adult film producers is readily apparent, others have begun to include more black faces as they realize the money to be made on black sexuality. Other producers have developed all-black lines, and in a couple of instances, whole companies have been created devoted exclusively to black male adult films. While the portraits of African-American men in these films have moved beyond the times when racist dialogue spoken by white men was force-dubbed into the mouths of brothers, images are still often grounded in racial stereotypes, both "positive" and negative.

THE BLK INTERVIEW

In this mine field of politics and pornography, a handful of black actors have risen to become personalities in their own right. Among these perhaps none tower over the industry as does Joe Simmons. Even Jesse Helms knows Joe Simmons from his portraits photographed by the late Robert Mapplethorpe and published in his *Black Book* in 1986.

Simmons stands 6'3" and 190 lbs. His chest is 50 all-American inches. His voice booms like Robeson, revealing talents that extend far beyond the ample ability he has for adult film work. His body displays bounteously the fruits of gym-wrought labor. Here is a man with drive, motivation and an immense presence that is more than just his physical self.

Superstar Joe Simmons has been in the adult film industry for a decade now, throughout the AIDS crisis. He has made his moves with a combination of careful deliberation and blind luck. He may seem an unlikely role model to some, but his success is as indisputable as his riveting torso is commanding.

BLK caught up with the singer/actor/dancer/musician and reluctant superstar of porn in New York where he worked in prop and set design before he began his adult film career.

Simmons is as candid about his experiences with racism in the industry, as he is about his experiences with insisting on safe sex. One would think that no one would *dare* to tell Joe Simmons *no* on any demand, but the gentler, softer Joe Simmons reveals a side than no one would *want* to say no to.

You call yourself an actor?

Yes. I consider myself an actor because it's more than just doing pornographic films. Nowadays in the film industry what they look for is people who can act as well as perform. So, with all due respect, I consider myself an actor.

And by "the film industry" you mean the porno film industry?

Right. They basically look for people who are attractive—the body and all—but nowadays they look for a little more. If you're given a ten-page script, you've got to read it, you've got to perform as well. I think this is what people are asking for. How good are they other than just the pornographic side of it?

Do you want to act in other kinds of films?

Sure. Before the porno, I did legitimate off-Broadway plays. I've done eight shows and two commercials, although I wasn't the principal in the commercial. The porno just kind of happened. These were before the porno career, but during my porno career, I've also done some commercials and fashion work. I have a portfolio and I've done modeling as well. But less of the acting. I just switched from legitimate into pornographic.

I imagine that was a big decision.

Yes, but it didn't really happen as a "decision." It happened at a point when nothing was actually happening for me. I picked up a trade magazine and there was an ad to do a screening for a video. I had really no idea exactly what the screening was for. When I got there, I was approached by [the late] Christopher Rage who did the kinkiest and the wildest videos that could be out in the market. At the time I had no idea who Christopher Rage was, but I soon found out.

When was this?

This was in '82 or '83.

In New York?

Yes. Before I got started, I was asked to sign a release. I said, "What kind of release am I signing?" and he said to me—he was very nice—"This is a pornographic movie," and I said, "Well, that's not what I..." and he said, "All you have to do is get in front of a camera. It's five minutes." I did, and I got paid 50 dollars. It was a couple of minutes and I was out. I thought, "Well, I would never do that again." But about a week later I got a call. They were shooting a video and they asked me if I wanted to do it, and I said, "Well, I'm not really interested, but maybe I might consider it..." I gave it some thought, but I never consulted anyone. I'm a rebel. I do things without asking permission, because that's how I am. It's my life, and I feel whatever I want to do, I'm gonna do it. And whatever people think about what I do...

That's their problem.

Yes. So there I was. My first video.

Do you remember the name of that first one? Is it still available?

I don't think so. It's called *They All Came,* and it wasn't very good. I wasn't very pleased with the video. I thought the lighting was horrible. The poster they did of me, I wouldn't have dared put it out. It was a big celebration about me opening up this movie, because they found a new star. But I had no thoughts of becoming a star. It just kind of happened.

Do you have a copy of the poster?

No.

I take it you didn't have any trouble performing sexually?

No, I didn't. It came natural.

The camera didn't bother you?

The camera didn't bother me. It seems like later on in my career, it's kind of happening. It's funny. I stop and think, "Hey, what am I doing here?" and whenever that happens, I become a little camera shy. But, all in all, I'm pretty comfortable.

Do you ever have any regrets about going into porno?

No. But that's a question that's often asked. I don't because I don't feel that because I've done pornographic films doors are closed for me. I don't find that happening. I find a lot of things happening at this point in my life as opposed to closing the door. A lot of people who think about doing pornographic films decide not to because they are worried about their careers and about what their friends are going to think. Those are the kind of things I never worry about. I'm very uninhibited.

You do films, and I believe you do live shows as well?

Yes. The live shows are usually held in gay clubs, but not always. I also go to straight clubs, but the scenario is a little different there. I don't jackoff in straight clubs. I keep the briefs on for straight performances. It's just erotic dancing. In gay clubs, like the Show Palace here in New York, I do a jackoff scene. I do five shows a day, seven days a week. Every show is not a jerkoff, but it's pretty much masturbating, and they're not easy. I get paid more for doing that in gay clubs than just dancing in straight clubs. Overall, it is a very difficult job. A lot of people don't realize how difficult it is when you have to do five shows a day for seven days. It often makes me wonder sometimes how other people are able to survive in this business. And a lot of them, I find, don't. I've seen people who support themselves and their drug habits by doing this kind of work. They eventually burn out, because the drug overtakes them. It is a lot of pressure to do this kind of work. It's not easy. It takes a very strong person to really survive it.

Still in some ways it seems like a great job. You jackoff and get paid for it.

Yes. I guess the person looking in on the person who is doing it would say that, but it's not. It's a good job. I get paid. I travel. But it's a hard job. It's not a job for everyone.

So you do films, live shows, modeling and some legitimate theater. What else do you do? Randy Cochran, for instance, has gotten into—shall we say—personal services? I don't know if you're aware of it, but he meets clients on the side. He has an ad running in L.A. papers.

Yes. Well. See. I don't do that. I don't have an ad running in any newspaper. I like privacy. I have a hard time giving my telephone number out because there are too many people out there who want to harass you. I'm not into being harassed. I'm a very private person when I'm not working. When I am home I want it to be quiet. I don't care for my telephone to ring every two minutes.

I'm not being forthright...

Yes. I know what you're referring to. I understand what goes on in this business very well. I've been in it long enough to know who's doing what. I know of his ad. I don't have an ad for that reason. There are people who have made many requests. I like for my life to be private. I don't care for all that. I do my films and my shows and that's enough. That's really enough. I need time to relax. I'm a person who likes solitude. I like the country. I like the woods. I live a very simple, basic life and I just don't stand or tolerate to have my telephone ringing off the hook every two minutes.

So you're telling me that there are things other than money?

Yes. There are things other than money. Sure, we need money to survive, but I survive with little. I don't need a lot.

I would love to know how much you make in a year, but I won't ask because you probably wouldn't tell me.

That's true.

But let me ask it this way. Do you make as much as a cop, or maybe as much as a middle manager?

Somewhere between a police officer and a middle manager.

Then it's not like you're making $300,000 a year?

I don't think there's anyone in the porno industry that's doing that kind of money. It varies from different video companies, and how they pay, and exactly what you do in a scene, and if you're the principal model for that particular movie. It really depends on a lot of things including how you're being paid. But I don't think anyone's in the six figure bracket unless they're producing them.

Do you ever think about that?

Yes. I'm planning on having a mail order business. That's about the closest people are ever going to get to really meet me. That way people will be able to write letters, and I'll be the one who'll be opening the letters. I'll be reading the letters and returning letters and pictures...

Really signed by you?

Really signed by me. It will be easier to get in contact with Joe. What people normally do is write to the video company and then they send the letter to me.

What is your day-to-day contact with the public like? When you go to the supermarket or ride the subway, do people run up to you and say, "Oh, Joe."

No, people don't. When they recognize you they sort of gawk at you. They don't really *per se* run up to me. On occasion people shout out if I go in the Village. Five out of ten people go, "There's Joe" or whatever, but I ride the subways like everyone else. There is a certain amount of anonymity on the subway. I take the bus, but most time I'm on my bike. I usually ride it if I have to get across town. It's not highly visible. I don't often even think about people recognizing me. Half the time I've got on my hat and my glasses—not to really disguise myself—it's just how I dress—like a baseball cap and glasses.

Do people make indecent proposals to you?

Yes. That happens, but the people who do it don't even recognize that I'm Joe Simmons, and that I'm a person who's in films. They just...

See an attractive man?

Exactly. Like yesterday a guy came up to me selling T-shirts. He asked if I wanted to buy a T-shirt for five dollars at first, then he finally said, "I'll give it to you for two." What kind of sly remark is that? And I go, "It's not interesting." But that's one of the many approaches. He was gay and he just saw an attractive man and he just approached me. I thought nothing of it other than what it was, not that he recognized me as Joe Simmons. I don't walk out of the house thinking that 100,000 people are going to approach me today because I'm Joe Simmons. That doesn't happen. When I go out somewhere, I don't go out with the idea that people know who I am. I just like to go out and have a good time.

So what kind of social life *do* you have? Do you have a lover?

No. I don't have a lover.

Have you ever had one?

No. I never did.

Does that have to do with Joe Simmons, the person, or does that have to do your profession?

I think it is a combination of both. I travel a lot. And the minute people hear I do films, it's like a turn off. "Well, he does films. He sleeps with everyone." But it's not like that. My business in the film industry is as a professional. People get the wrong idea.

So you're acting when you do that?

Yes.

You might be acting, but...

Well, I *have* to perform. But that's the aspect they don't like, and they simply can't deal with it. But, like I say, I'm a

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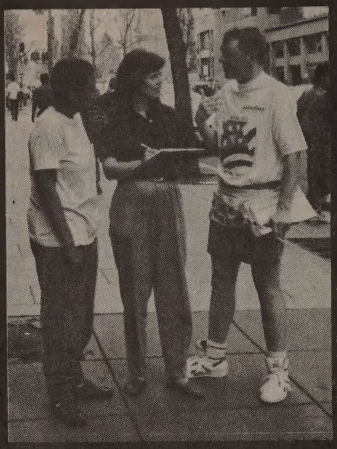

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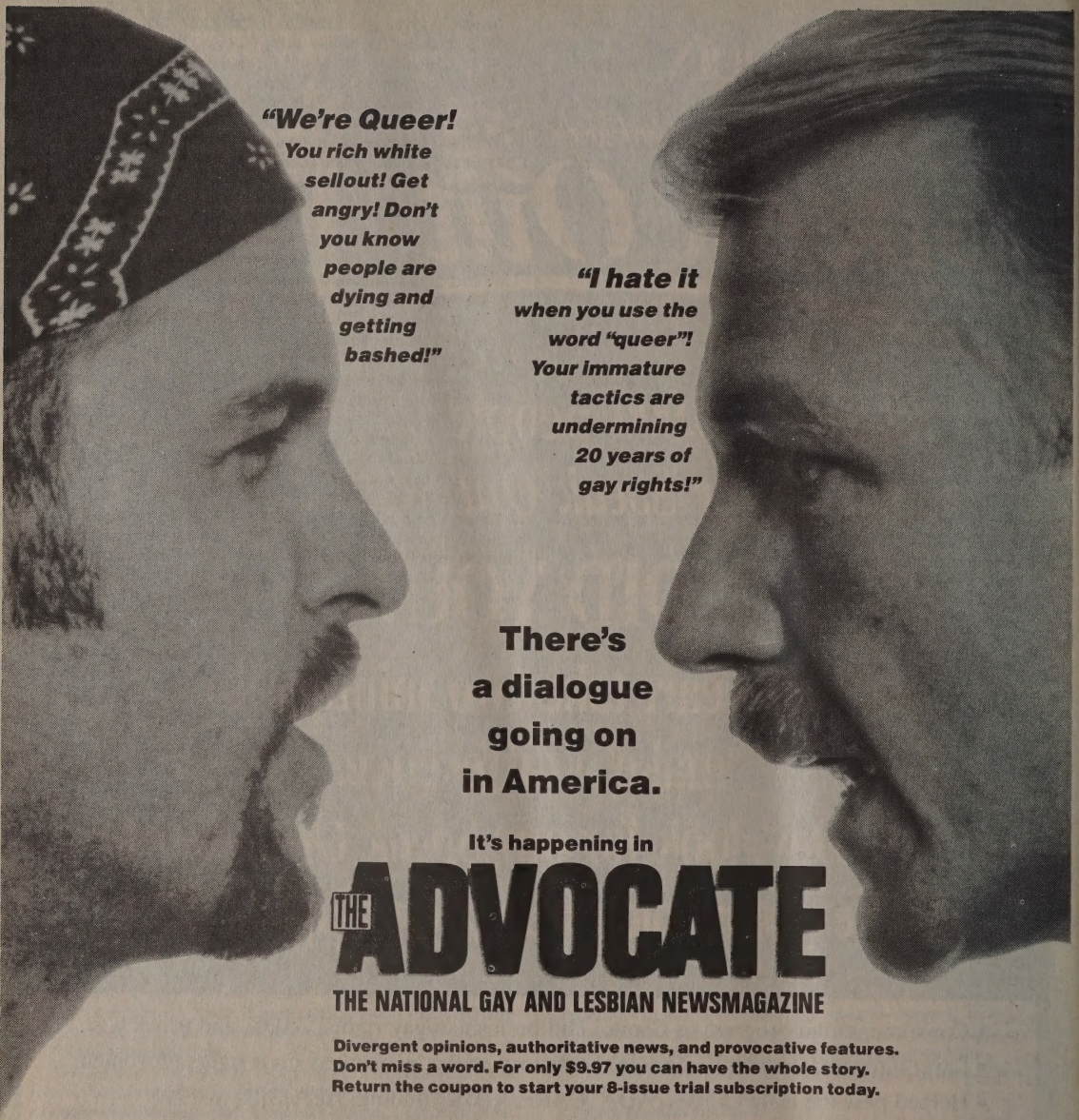
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rebel and it's my life. I won't stop it because someone who wants to be with me says, "Don't do it."

You've said that you're a rebel a couple of times. What do you mean?

I always take initiative for what I want. I don't ask for approval. I just do it.

That's "being your own man," but is that really being a rebel?

Yes. It's being my own man. But when people approach you and ask, "Why are you doing that?" "Why do you do that stuff?" I say, "Because it's my decision. Because it's my life." People find that kind of rebellious, because it's like I'm rebelling. I'm *not* being rebellious, and it's not doing anyone any harm. I made the choice to do pornography, and it's no one else's choice to decide what career I should do. If someone came up to me and said, "You don't have to do that. Why don't you work at the post office?" I'd say they were crazy, literally. That is the *last* job I'd do. Not that it's a really bad job, and there are benefits, but...

There might be a few postal workers reading this interview.

Yes. Well, you can delete that, but...

You talked about being a rebel and about pornography not hurting anyone. There are people out there—mainly conservatives—who would say it *does* hurt somebody.

Yes. I realize that.

How do you feel about the controversy surrounding pornography? If you could talk to one of those conservative white Southerners, what would you tell them?

Boy, would I love to talk to one of them...

Would you *talk* to them, or would they find themselves lying on the floor?

I would talk to them. I think people really need to have a better understanding of what's going on in the industry rather than just going around and beating the industry down without really knowing what's going on.

Do you think that people are hurt by watching pornography?

People have every right to see it, and the people who don't want it, don't have to look at it. And, in that sense, I don't see how it could possibly ever hurt anyone. And if it *is* hurting someone, they don't have to watch it.

Shut if off?

Shut it off. Right.

What if it falls in the hands of kids? Can kids be hurt by it?

I don't think kids can be hurt by it. Our society is—as far as sexuality goes—still a baby. I travel around the world and I find Europeans are so open about sexuality, and not only to themselves, but to their children. I thought it was wonderful when I walked into a house and I saw a nude man and a picture of a nude female showing genitals and kids running around the apartment. Over there it's a work of art, but we—being Puritans—would not accept that. It's pornography, showing genitals and a girl's vagina.

Do you feel any personal danger from the climate in this country? When you're working on a film do you feel that someone's going to bust in and cart you off to jail?

I've felt that maybe once or twice, but usually the environment is very relaxed. I was shooting a video in an office on street level here in New York once. I felt very uncomfortable in that kind of environment. It wasn't such a good neighborhood and it was constantly being patrolled by police officers. There was a park across the street with two more police officers in a car watching over things.

Did anything happen?

No. Nothing happened. Usually there's a certain kind of environment which is typically someone's private home or in the country somewhere, so you don't really think anything like that. But you just never know. Even when I've felt as though I knew what was going on, I've felt like any minute they could just come in and take us all.

I want to go back a minute. You said that you weren't looking for a lover. Okay, you aren't looking. But if you happened to meet the right person, would you rule out a relationship?

I'm not looking for it, and I'd find it very hard even if the right person came along. I find it very hard to keep it stable because the next day I'll be off for a couple of weeks, then come back, rest up and take off again...

But that happens all the time. That happens in Hollywood, and people still maintain relationships—sometimes.

Sure, I understand that. But the nature of my business is what keeps the relationship unbalanced.

Okay, no lovers. But I'm still going to pursue this. What about boyfriends, short term affairs?

I have a few close friends who I visit and talk to. We go out and that seems to work fine for me.

Are they in the industry?

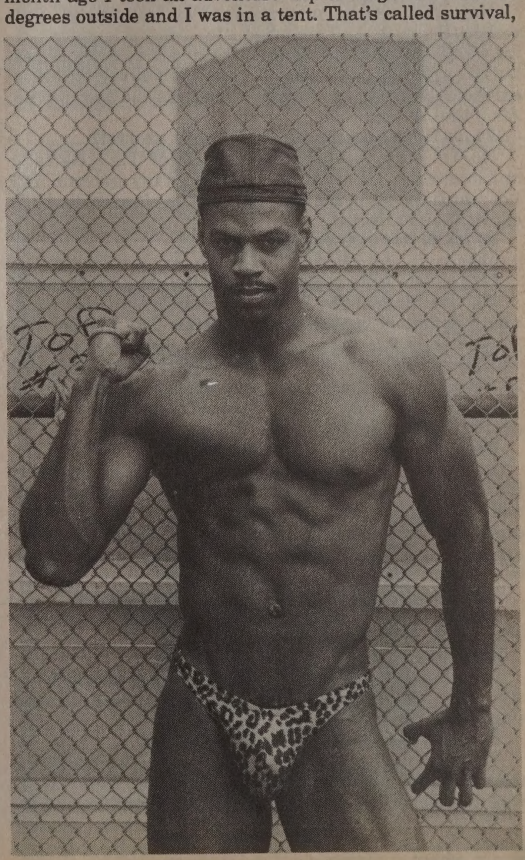
No, they're not. But they know what I do, and that's fine. It's not so much people knowing what I do. It's the fact that if I can maintain a few friends—boyfriends, girlfriends, whatever—I have no border on what type of relationship I want to be in—people I can go out with and have a good time and talk and tell them things, I feel at this point in my life that's more important than trying to establish a relationship.

What kinds of things are you and your friends likely to do?

Go out to a movie. Go out to dinner...

Just like a real person.

Just like a real person. I tell you, I live and breathe just like everyone else. The thing I like most is being outdoors. A month ago I took an adventure trip to Virginia. It was 28 degrees outside and I was in a tent. That's called survival,



and I like things like that. Not many people can do things like that.

You ever go whitewater rafting?

Sure. That's fun. Twice a year, at least. I like adventure, and I'm always doing things. Today I was watching a program on TV and I thought I would like to go skindiving. That's adventurous. Some people can't put themselves into doing things like that. It's often hard to find companions to do some of the things that I like to do. So I often do things I like alone.

The things you've mentioned so far have been highly physical, which goes along with you being a big beefy guy. What is your physical regimen like? Are you in the gym everyday?

I'm in the gym four days a week, an hour and a half each day, with weekends off. I put a lot time and energy into my workout program. It consists of getting a lot of rest, dieting and keeping a very routine schedule. When I take care of myself, I get more work. Producers are looking for people who are almost always attractive with a developed body, because that's what the market wants. I keep myself marketable by keeping myself in shape.

Give me your vital statistics. How tall are you?

Six-foot-three, 190 lbs., 32" waist, 11 shoe, 44 suit long, wings are 35, neck 16", chest 46" to 48". When I really pump it up, it's 50".

Come on. Give *all* of your statistics.

Nine-inch dick.

Do you have a personal trainer?

No. I have my own regimen. When I got into working out and developing myself for image, I took the initiative in buying a lot of materials, such as muscle and fitness magazines, nutrition journals, and so forth. I learned it all myself, different diet regimens, how to train, what to eat and how to sleep. All of that is a part of it.

Do you follow a special diet? For example, no meat?

No. I'm not a vegetarian. I do eat meat. I'm a big eater and love to eat. I love burgers, steaks, turkey and ham. But I do watch the fat in the beef. I always buy lean meat. I just eat right and exercise.

Do you do your own cooking?

Yes.

Let's go back to the beginning. Is your real name Joe Simmons?

No. Joe Simmons is a stage name. Using a real name would definitely cause lot of problems. The number one problem is the telephone. People find out your real name and when they find out where you live, that it. I've been a model for Robert Mapplethorpe. My portrait's in his *Black Book* and also in the show that toured the country last year. My first name's [Tom] in the book.

What was it like working with Mapplethorpe?

Robert and I had a good *rappórt.* There was a connection the very first day. He saw that I was a hard-working model and had what it takes to be one. I have real Mapplethorpe prints, but I'm not opting to sell them. It was a wonderful experience working with him, and I have something that will be in history for eternity.

Have you worked with any other top rank photographers?

None so famous, but I've worked with photographers who were pretty much art photographers.

Name them.

Lynn Biantki. John Lesnik did a big silk screen blow-up of a print. There're actually about four. I've been a model since 1979. I started in early 1970s.

What about *Advocate Men?*

The day I did the layout for *Advocate Men* [October 1988], their former photographer gave me a two-hour lecture as to why they didn't have black men in the magazine. Black men on the cover of *Sports Illustrated* didn't hurt the sales of *Sports Illustrated,* but having a black man on the *Advocate Men* cover would. I thought the explanation was time-consuming, time-wasting energy that day. We did the shoot. It was a very successful shoot. We ended up doing post cards and everything else. But the energy and the time he spent in explaining this to me was...

Did he initiate it? Or did you?

I don't know, I think it was him and the art director's people. America and Europe are so different. In Europe, if I'm doing a show for a club, they might do a poster first. "Let's put him on a cover," they might say. "Let's do nude," perhaps. The whole thing. It's wonderful. The whole treatment. It's nothing about, well, "He's black." That's sounds so *cliché.* That's the problem I'm having with some of the magazines here. They don't want to put me in. One magazine delayed a shoot for a year before they decided to use it. And when they finally decided to put it in, it was on the last page. After the advertisements, there was Joe Simmons. It wasn't the photographer's fault. I told him the shoot was nice. One photographer who I've worked for wanted to do a photo shoot for *Torso.* The pictures were great. They were fabulous, but they didn't want to put me on the cover. Can't use him because he's black. He got back to me about that and we talked. So *cliché.* It's like using black as an excuse.

Are some European countries more receptive than others? Or is the freedom you see expressed throughout the continent?

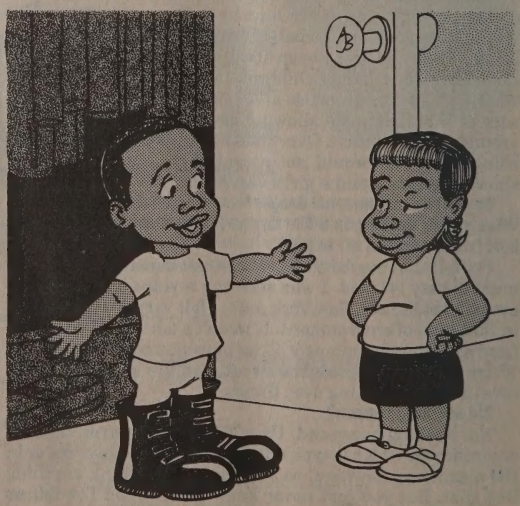
It's a whole experience. I've been to Scandinavia all the way down to Italy. It's always different. It's wonderful.

Where else have you been? How about China? The Orient?

No, just to Australia, which is great. I haven't gone to the Asian countries.

Tell me about your early childhood.

I'm a native New Yorker. Upstate New York. I went to public school. My parents broke up—separated—when I was about nine years old. Then I went to boarding school. I had a very difficult time living at home. My father left. It was just my mother, six brothers and seven sisters, not all living at home at the same time. I had a very tough time. They helped me a lot in boarding school. I learned to function in a family-oriented relationship. That was good for me because that really helped me to grow. It made me stronger. I think that's the reason I ventured out into doing things that are



"I heard daddy tell his new boyfriend that he has to wear these before they do it."

different. I always found myself doing things that people normally wouldn't do, like being out in a forest somewhere by myself for a week. Not many people can do that. As a result of being in the school, I was taught to be able to function on my own and to develop as an adult. They really paved the way for me to do that. I left and came to New York City when I was about 18 years old. I went to trade school for air conditioning and refrigeration. I worked for a company on the east side.

Where did that come from?

I'm very good with my hands. I was able to repair things. That led to trade school learning air conditioning and refrigeration. I was 18 years old, had just finished high school, got my first apartment and got a car. I was really on my way to becoming a family man and maybe have children. But after a couple of years I felt I needed something more, so I quit the job and I was unemployed for awhile. Then I got a job in a bank. I was a banker.

How long were you a banker?

I was a banker for four years. I went to banking school for two years. From messenger to mailroom supervisor to the administrative department.

Which bank?

American Savings Bank of New York. After four years, I got very bored with that, and decided to quit. The next thing I thought, well, it's time to go back to school. So I registered at one of the local city universities here in New York and went back to school for a couple of years majoring in history. I really loved being back in school. I loved being a kid writing, reading, studying and making deadlines, making grades. I was actually pretty good. I had a 3.5 grade point average. I never thought I'd do so well. That's when videos came to mind. From there, I started doing videos and traveling so I had to quit school. It kind of balances. Go to school or do the videos. The videos were making money. I was more interested in making money. So I quit school and starting making money.

How much more do you have before you're finished?

About a year and a half.

You ever think about doing it?

Yes. I'm so close to doing it. But as I get older, if you don't really fix your mind into school, it's seems like your mind is more focused into making money.

How old are you?

Thirty-one.

I thought you weren't going to answer that question.

I shudder before answering that question most of the time. I don't look like I'm 31. I don't have a pot belly, a face all saggy and I'm not fat. I take care of myself. No lines that show either.

Can you remember your first relationship or sexual experience with a man?

Yes, but not so well. I guess I was 22 or 23.

What happened?

You want to know all the details?

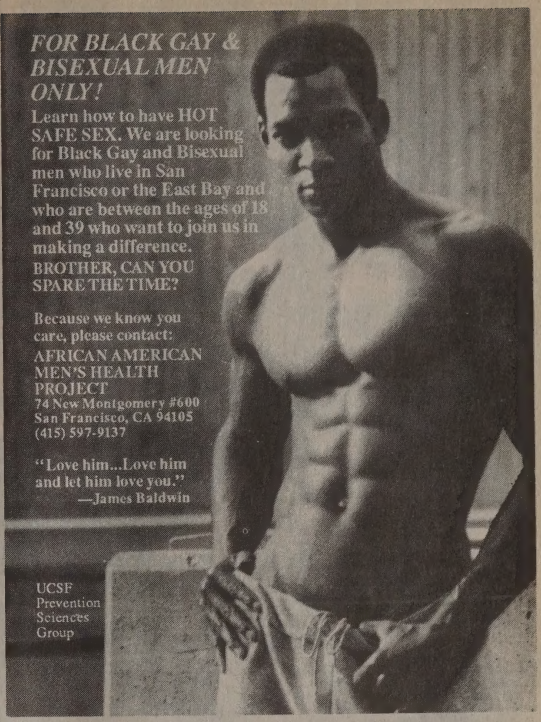
Every single one.

It was with an older guy who was being like a father to me. I didn't know what his intentions were. I didn't know he was a gay man. I accepted him. He was 42. I thought that was fine. He used to hug me. I thought it was sensual. And before you know it, there I was, bonded with this guy, having a relationship. But I didn't think for a moment that it was anything involved with being gay. If you are brought up in a situation where you don't have a father and your mother can't comfort you, well, it feels good having someone hold you. It kind of just grew.

Had you had relationships with women at this point?

Yes.

Why were you receptive to male affection at this particular time?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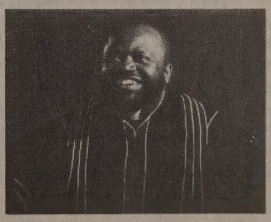

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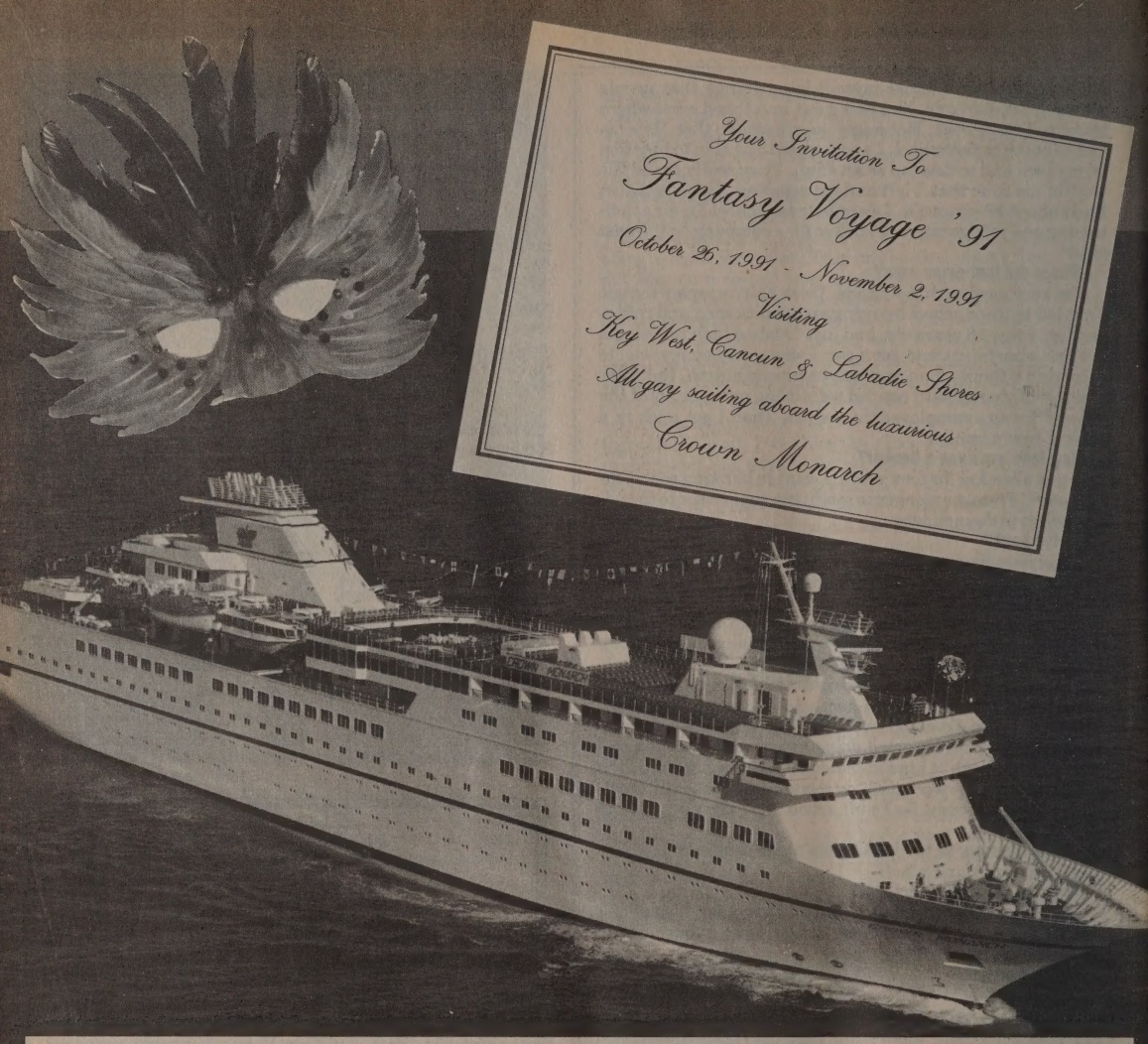

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CROWN CRUISE LINE

Why hadn't this happened before?

I think it was time for it. I think a lot of things were happening. I was 22 years old. I don't remember exactly. When I left the banking job, I didn't have work. I didn't know what to do. I felt it was a cold, shitty world out there. There no one out there to comfort or help me.

This was a person showing some interest?

Here someone showing interest. He didn't come on to me like he was gay or anything. It kind of just happened. He was being very patient.

Black man or white?

It was a white guy. Venezuelan.

Do you still see him?

No. I think he's back in his country.

Are you making plans for the future when you are no longer making films or doing live shows? Are you buying real estate for your retirement?

I constantly think about the future and building for the future. It's a long road, constantly building. I don't know what I'm going to get into. Could be real estate. Maybe a farm somewhere raising cattle. I do see a future because I have intelligence and because I know that I'm not going to be in the video industry all my life. I know I'm not going to be performing at 60. I realize that. A lot of porno actors need to get into reality and realize that, since you can't do this forever, there are other things, there are other avenues. Those avenues aren't limited because you have done this kind of work. They have to realize that and have to be able to channel their energy in other directions.

Any thoughts on what other things you might do?

I'm doing a couple of recordings. Records will be coming out.

You *sing?*

Yes, I'm a singer. This is totally different to me. I've done acting, but never gotten into the musical side.

Okay, you have this big deep voice, but what makes you think you can sing?

Confidence! I feel I can do it. I take the initiative. I feel I can handle this. If I look at something, I read it and study it and then say, "I can handle this."

Is this related to your live shows?

Yes, very much.

Same management or same producers?

No. This has nothing to do with the films, totally different.

So if this works, we can look forward to seeing your music video on BET and MTV?

Yes, right after MC Hammer. I'm looking forward to that.

Do you handle your own negotiations, or are you your own manager?

Yes. I am my own manager.

Is that tough?

Yes. That's tough. I often feel that it's in my best interests to have someone do it for me. You have to keep with it. It's a constant thing. If I send out pictures for work, I have to do follow-ups. I have to remember who I sent pictures to. All that stuff I do myself.

I don't see a personal computer around yet, do I?

No. There is no personal computer, not yet. But most definitely I am going to need a personal computer in order to keep up with the names, addresses, supplies and whatever. That's a bigger responsibility.

How many films have you made so far?

About 15 to 20.

In sex scenes, do you get to choose or approve your partner?

Usually they try to have Polaroid pictures so they can compare and make the decisions themselves. It doesn't work out 100 percent of the time. I've gone on shoots where they've said, "We have the right person for you," but when I got there said, "No. This is not going to work out." They had to recast.

Do you have specific types you like and dislike?

Yes. I think it's important to find someone who is attractive and who takes care of his body. I've seen them all. I've seen people who come in with warts on their skin. It's important that they're clean, in good health and all-American.

How about racial types?

Most of my videos are black videos, so I'm put into this category that Joe Simmons only does black videos, but Joe Simmons has done so much other stuff, with blacks, whites, Puerto Ricans and so on. I don't want to be categorized. I'm a person who is open to a lot of ideas. That is what I want to see in the video industry. Among black videos, everything is *black* this, *black* that. They don't have the *white* Stryker Force. I think it is enough that if you are black it is indicated by the box cover. The cast doesn't necessarily have to be labeled.

But black men are in high demand by some collectors of porno. In fact, Black Forest Productions, has built their reputation on it.

I realize there's a market for it. But the way they're advertising them is very marginal. You don't see them doing bigger ads for black videos. They're very small and a lot of them are on the last page. I don't think it's fair for black actors in the industry. The market is selling. I realize how dynamic the black video market is selling. Like crazy. I'm aware of this. I know what's going on.

Let's talk about the types of things that turn you on and things that turn you off. You have no problem in working with white actors?

No. I have no problems working with anyone. I don't care what nationality. No problem with women either.

Have you ever actually worked with women?

Yes. I've done three bisexual movies, I can't recall the names. One is about 16 hours long and I regretted it so much. Like other things I've done, I feel it will haunt me later on in life.

What "other" things?

The Christopher Rage kinky stuff that involved fisting, tying myself up and masturbating. I never thought any of the things I did to be bad when I did them—scat scenes in one—but I never thought they would go that far in videos or that a lot of people would recognize me.

You do covet an all-American image?

Yes. I think I have that image and I very much respect that image in someone else. When you have two performers who are equally attractive, it really doesn't matter, one black, one white, one Oriental or what. I mean it. But the minute you put somebody who looks unclean—they have spots all over them and acne everywhere—people are turned off. They don't want this video. That's important. The video industry sees that Joe Simmons is attractive and takes care of himself, so let's use him. Believe me, they will use you until your bones are completely dry.

What about health concerns?

It's important that...

How do you handle it?

Using rubbers, things like that are very important.

In all the films I've seen, I don't specifically remember your...

Some of my early films, I did not use rubbers, because I started in the pre-1980 era in videos before there was big publicity about using condoms. Now there is a lot of publicity about using condoms. There are certain video companies who still don't use condoms. They do insertion of nonoxynol-9.

Do you feel comfortable that there's no risk if they do it that way?

Well, no. I always believe that it's important to take precautions. Actually, it's up to the actors if you want to use condoms or not. But I feel the actors should make that decision to do it, because they're setting an example for the public. When the public sees that they are not using con-

doms, then people think, I shouldn't use condoms. People believe that everything is alright because they're not doing it with condoms.

I understand from some producers that folks don't want to see their porno stars wearing condoms. They want the fantasy.

But we are living in an era, where it is not pre-AIDS any more. People have to protect themselves. I understand about using nonoxynol-9 cream.

You're telling me that if you go onto the set, and you want to wear a condom and the producer says, "No, we're not going to do that"—for whatever reason—that you would stand your ground?

I just wouldn't shoot. It's not a producer's choice to make that decision. I find that most of them have condoms available, but they're maybe sitting somewhere on the table. There available if you want to use them.

I don't know what your HIV status is and I'm not going to ask, but assuming that you and your partner were both negative, would you have unprotected sex?

That's often difficult, because he can get his status, then lie about it. Plus things change over time.

Which do you prefer? Men or women?

I had relationships with females since my earliest days. But I have male friends, male companions. We get together and do things. Sometimes we might spend a few days together traveling somewhere. I guess what I'm trying to say is that I'm a bisexual man. That's it!

A number of folks say that so called bisexual men are really gay men who just haven't come out of the closet.

It's not that I'm closeted. I do have intimate relationships with women. I had a relationship with a female for six months once. But because I am a bisexual man, I am also attracted to men, in altering moods. I enjoy being with women, but I also enjoy being with men. I can't explain it any further. It's kind of hard to explain it to someone who doesn't have the altering moods I do. I'm a Cancer, and a person of many moods. There are times when I have these altering moods. That's fine and that suits me.

So you might get married?

Might. Maybe not. I don't know.

You're not necessary ruling it out. There is a possibility?

Yes, there is a possibility. It's funny, I find a lot of men in the film industry doing gay films that are married or have girlfriends. Some have children. I've heard it all...

Do you have any kids?

No. I have no kids. It's amazing to find this stuff out, because when the guy I'm doing the shoot with is married, I wonder "What does your wife think about this?" She must know that you do this. You're in the business.

So relationships *are* possible in this business. You said you thought they were difficult, yet here's somebody who's doing it.

Yes, they're possible, but they're really edgy. A lot of these guys aren't very responsible. They end up having this big drug problem, working to support their drug habits. How could they possibly have girlfriends or consider getting married and being responsible.

But you consider yourself to be a responsible person?

Most definitely. I'm responsible all the way.

Do you have any vices?

I keep out of drugs. I don't do drugs.

Good. But I still want to know the bad stuff.

The bad stuff? Like what?

Do you eat too much chocolate or something?

Popcorn. I eat too much buttered popcorn. I buy a big box, a large Coca-Cola and a Snickers bar. You have to go on a binge ever now and then.

Do you smoke?

No.

So a food binge is the only vice you will admit to?

Yes. I don't get into cocaine or freebasing and all that other stuff. I've seen too many people's lives totally destroyed or people who just passed away from it.

One last question. What color toilet paper do you use?

What a question! Blue. Sometimes different colors. I really like red. They don't have red toilet paper. If I got the toilet paper of my choice, it would be red.

Is that the rebel in you?

Yes. It's the rebel in me. I look for things that are kind of off. People see me and figure me as kind of a box. I would go for the most offish kind of thing. They would say, "why would he choose that?"

JOE SIMMONS ON FILM

Male Power, Early 80s
I Know What Girls Like, Early 1980s
They All Came, PM Productions, 1980s
Master Bates, PM Productions, 1980s
Safe Sex, PM Productions, 1980s
Oriental Dick, PM Productions, 1985
Screen Test, PM Productions, 1985
Made in the Shade, PM Productions, 1985
My Masters, Live Video, 1986
Cousin Buck, PM Productions, 1986
Made in the Shade II, PM Productions, 1986
Colored Boys, Executive Productions, 1986
Oreo Boys, Satellite, 1986
Raunch II, Live Video, 1986
Black Delivery, Sattelite, 1986
Frank Vickers: Worship, Live, 1987?
My Masters, Christopher Rage Productions, 1987
Homeboys, PM Productions, 1987
Bad Ass, Live Video, 1987
Black Pack, Satellite, 1988
Slaves, Live Video, 1988
Black Magic, Catalina Productions, 1988
Getting Down, Satellite Productions, 1988
Pizza Delivery, PM Productions, 1988
Black Book, PM Production 1988
Advocate Men Live #6, 1980s
Bi and Large, 1980s
Soul & Salsa II, Adam Productions, 1989
Return of Indiana Joan, Adventure Studios, 1989
Black Alley: South of the Border, Catalina, 1990

JOE SIMMONS IN PRINT

Robert Mapplethorpe, Black Book, 1986
Mandate, April 1988
Advocate Men, October 1988
All Man, October 1988
Men of Advocate Men, November 1988
Inches, January 1989
All Man, July 1989
All Man, October 1989
Torso/Sallion, November 1989
Jock, December 1989
Honcho, May 1990
Manshots, January 1990
Inches, September 1990

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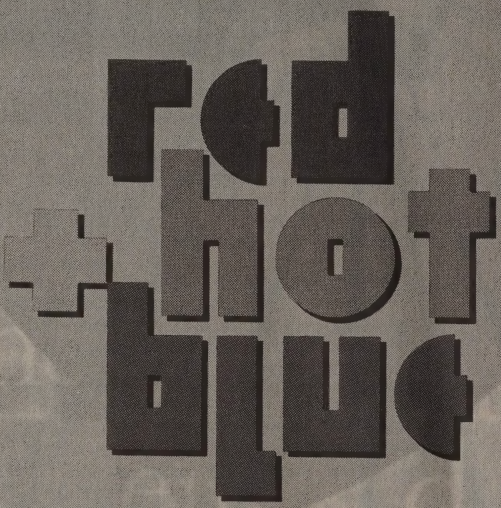

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Deborah Harry & Iggy Pop
Lisa Stansfield
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ALBUM AVAILABLE ON CHRYSALIS RECORDS

BLK NEWS

African-American Takes Top Title in Leather World

CHICAGO—"D" Cannon, a 29-year-old computer programmer from Hollywood, Calif., was awarded the title of "International Mr. Leather 1991" May 26 at the climax of five days of leather-oriented activities. Cannon is the second African-American to hold the title in the contest's 13-year history, Ron Moore having become the first black title-holder in 1984.

Cannon, 6'4" and 225 pounds, overwhelmed the judges to take the highest honor in the leather community and represent the community throughout the year. He was the popular choice as well. Cannon came to Chicago as "Mr. C.C. Construction" and left with a new honor plus $5000 in cash and prizes.

It has been incorrectly reported that Cannon was "Mr. Palm Springs." In fact, he was "Mr. C.C. Construction," a bar located in the Palm Springs area.

Terry Leonhart of Baltimore took second place and Mitch Johnson of San Francisco came in third.

During a segment where the 20 finalists were given 90 seconds to say anything they wanted, Cannon told the 1,700 people jammed into Chicago's Vic Theater, "The time has come when personal concerns for ourselves must take a back seat to caring for each other. We must put a stop to gay-bashing. We must use our ballots as bullets. We must work together as one, unified family. We must remember that we can change attitudes and opinions.

"No one person can accomplish all this alone," Cannon said. "As International Mr. Leather, I invite you to stand with me. Use me as a direct channel to focus on these goals in your communities and together we will make a difference."

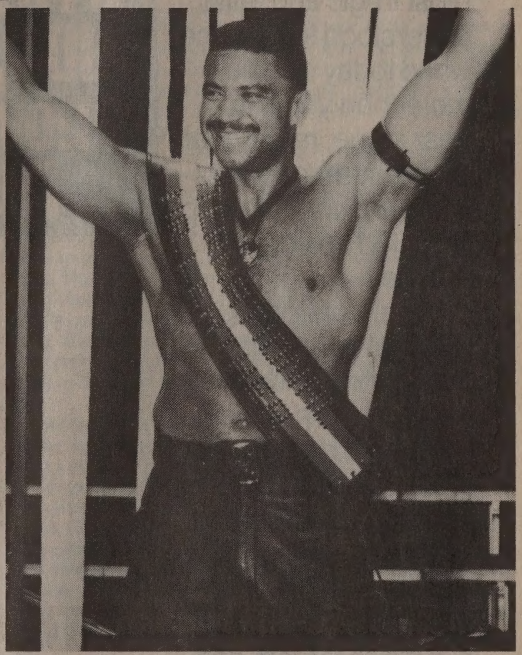
The contentants were judged on physical appearance, attitude, personality and leather image. Those who became semifinalists modeled swimwear, jocks, harnesses, and, of course, leather.

Cannon, who was sponsored by Wayne's Leather Rack and Marathon Films, both of Los Angeles, stressed the importance of his win for the black community. "One of the reasons I wanted to do this," he told BLK, "was to let other black men know it's okay. The leather community has a high regard for diversity and celebrates individuality. I've always felt at home in the leather community. I never felt as though anyone treated me any less.

"I've met other black men into leather," he continued. "But a lot of black gay men into leather don't know where to go. The few that you see go to leather bars. And then you're no longer visible in the black community." There aren't any black leather bars, he said.

In recent years, the position of International Mr. Leather has become one of the lesbian and gay community's most visible symbols, making personal appearances across the country at local and national fundraisers. The competition was conceived and produced by Chuck Renslow along with chief judge Dom Orejudos.

Campy humorist Khris Francis of San Jose, Calif., and singer/comedian Marga Gomez of San Fransisco co-emceed the five-hour event. The dance music duo of Kim Cataluna and David Diebold headlined the entertainment singing "Sex Technology," "White Rabbit" and "Set Me Free." The Chicago Gay Men's Chorus performed—in tuxedos.



"D" Cannon, International Mr. Leather 1991

Cataluna, who is apparently straight, told the audience she had been nervous about performing at the contest, wondering if she was hip enough to handle it. She then lifted up her smock to display her bare breasts, and announced that she was having a ball.

A former bartender at Jewel's Catch One in Los Angeles, Cannon has set a goal for himself to see $1 million raised for lesbian and gay charities during his tenure. Nearly $3,200 was collected for the Howard Brown Memorial Clinic in Chicago during the contest.

In Southern California, Cannon works with the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, the Minority AIDS Project, the Chris Brownlie Hospice and Aid for AIDS.

Participation in the event by men of color is several times what it was just two or three years ago. Of the 51 contestants from the United States and Canada—and one from Rome—a record six were African-American, including three positions among the 20 chosen as semifinalists.

In addition to Cannon, the other black semifinalists were Gregory Adams of San Francisco, who held the title "Mr. Pendulum Leather 1991," and Lonnie Clemmons of Cincinnati, who was sponsored by Spurs, a local motorcycle club.

The International Mr. Leather contest is one of two major leather competitions. The other is International Mr. Drummer. The former stresses the political dimensions of leather while the latter stresses the erotic.

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Having AIDS can be a frightening experience, which is all the more reason it shouldn't be a lonely experience.

AIDS PROJECT LOS ANGELES

AIDS Project Los Angeles would like to gratefully thank the following contributors. Concept and design by Chiat/Day/Mojo, Jim Weinstein, Doug Schumacher and Rich Bess. Production by David Nickel, Patti Rawlins, Tony Jenson, Joe's Type Shop and Reproduction Quality Services. Media Planning by Media Ranch.

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WHO Begins 6-Month Kemron Test on 1200 Africans

GENEVA, Switzerland—The World Health Organization is starting the first wide-scale tests of a controversial AIDS drug that became popular last year after remarkable claims of success by African researchers.

Supplies of the drug, called Kemron, have just been shipped to testing sites in Africa and the six-month trial involving 1,200 people with AIDS symptoms should start by the first week of June, said Dr. David Heymann, chief of research for WHO's Global Program on AIDS in Geneva.

The WHO effort marks the first time in the West that Kemron, which is a low-dose, oral form of alpha interferon, a protein naturally produced by certain immune cells, will be scrutinized in large, controlled tests.

Kemron burst onto the AIDS treatment scene in April 1990 when Dr. Davy Koech of Kenya's Medical Research Institute in Nairobi claimed the drug completely cleared AIDS symptoms in 99 of 101 patients. That report, followed by a study in which Koech reported rapid reductions in physical ailments and increases in weight among about 200 patients taking the Kemron, spurred worldwide demand for the drug.

By last fall, similar, but not identical, formulations of low-dose, oral interferon had become the drug of choice on the U.S. underground market for AIDS treatments. But a skeptical Western medical community found fault with the research methodology and was slow to perform its own tests.

The *Amsterdam News*, a New York black newspaper, suggested the study results were ignored because of an attitude that "blacks could not possibly have come up with an effective therapy or cure for AIDS that has eluded white scientists."

"If this had come out of Sweden or somewhere else, it would have been Page 1 everywhere," said Wilbert Tatum, editor in chief of the *Amsterdam News*.

In the WHO study, about 600 patients will dissolve one tablet of Kemron under their tongues each day, while the other half will receive phony pills. Researchers will then compare the treatment and control groups for deaths related to the AIDS virus and other signs of the deadly infection.

Proponents of Kemron contend the drug's site of action is at the rear of the mouth near the tonsils, where they think it is picked up by white blood cells and helps signal a patient's impaired immune system into action.

Peter Uitdenbosch, of the MANASOTA drug buyer's club in Sarasota, Fla., reports low-dose, oral alpha-interferon appears to "have gone out of fashion" and been displaced by bootlegged DDC on the underground AIDS drug market. "It is not anywhere near as popular as a year ago," he said.

Uitdenbosch said many patients stopped taking Kemron-like formulas after they failed to produce the fantastic results reported in the Kenyan studies. However, the drug did appear to improve appetite, increase energy and help clear secondary infections, like thrush, in some patients, he said.

While the popularity of low-dose, oral alpha-interferon may be waning in the United States, Heymann says the relatively low-cost Kemron is still widely sought by people in Kenya and neighboring African nations.

A meeting of experts convened by WHO in September failed to resolve the controversy over whether Kemron really works against AIDS, with the panel ruling that findings of uncontrolled tests of the drug "have thus far been inconclusive."

"This was felt to be an issue that needs to be addressed, and addressed in a scientific manner," said Heymann, explaining why the United Nations' agency decided to spearhead a large, controlled trial of Kemron.

WHO officials would not specify the sites for the $250,000 study. But Joseph Cummins, head of Amarillo Cell Culture Co., in Amarillo, Texas., which holds the patent on the form of interferon being tested, identifies them as Kampala, Uganda; Lusaka, Zambia; and Harare, Zimbabwe.

In December, an advisory panel of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases decided to wait for results of small, controlled studies before recommending Kemron for immediate human testing.

Results from small studies, like one of 45 patients at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York and one of 150 patients sponsored by Toronto's Community Research Initiative, may be released as early as June. Preliminary results from the WHO study should be available "within five to six months," agency officials said.

Meanwhile Dr. Wilbert C. Jordan, a member of the Los Angeles County Commission on AIDS and a prominent infectious disease specialist at Martin Luther King Jr./Drew Medical Center, has reported that 37 of 40 patients he studied gained weight, reported feeling better and showed some improvement in their bodies' abilities to fight infections. The results, however were not nearly as dramatic as those reported in Kenya last year.

Margaret Johnston, chief of drug development for NIAID's AIDS division, said if animal studies or small-scale human tests produce even slightly promising results, the U.S. government is likely to consider Kemron or similar drugs for a trial.

"Some people [taking Kemron] report feeling better. To feel better is important," Johnston said. "I don't think we can be in a position to write anything off at this point."

Kenyan scientists claim they have documented benefits in more than 1,000 patients there, including 50 who say they no longer test positive for the AIDS virus. There have been no such cases among Americans.

A delegation of black New Yorkers, including Dr. Barbara Justice, visited Nairobi last year to learn more about the drug. Justice said she was impressed by the results and would like to see the drug pursued.

MEN'S LOCKERS
FIRST WE GOT COLORED COPS. THEN WE GOT WOMEN COPS. NOW WE'VE GOT FAGGOT COPS. AND I HEAR WE GOT A NEW BATCH OF DYKE COPS AND ONE IS A NIGGER!
GILMAN

The morning of the day before Gilman went to the hospital.

People of Color Denounce Lambda Legal Defense for Going Ahead with 'Saigon' Benefit Despite Furor

By Mark Haile

NEW YORK—The Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund (LLDEF) benefit performance of the controversial Broadway production, *Miss Saigon*, has been the cause of steadily escalating passions among people of color from coast to coast.

Miss Saigon is a musical based on the opera, *Madame Butterfly*, with the time and location shifted to the end of the Vietnam War. The controversy first began when *Miss Saigon* opened in London, where some denounced the extensive use of racist and sexist language, and scenes where American characters repeatedly denigrate Asian characters—especially the women—who are largely cast as prostitutes.

The Broadway production of *Miss Saigon* first became embroiled in controversy when Actor's Equity, the actors union, fought against the casting of Jonathan Pryce—of *Phantom of the Opera* fame—in the lead role of a sleazy Eurasian pimp. But Cameron Mackintosh, the show's producer, insisted that Pryce would play the role or there would be no play. Pryce is white.

A broad number of organizations joined in the efforts of Asian Lesbians of the East Coast and Gay Asian and Pacific Islander Men of New York to call for Lambda and the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center of New York to reconsider the benefit.

African-American lesbian and gay organizations were quick to educate themselves on the debate as the controversy spread across New York City and then the country. Both Lambda and the Center were counting on the *Miss Saigon* benefit, with ticket prices ranging from $125 to $1500 each.

Audre Lorde refused to receive the Lambda Liberty Award in the latest debacle, stating that she would be pleased to accept the award if LLDEF would sever its connections to *Miss Saigon*.

"For Lambda to associate itself with a benefit performance of *Miss Saigon*, a play abounding in racist and sexist stereotypes, performed by non-Asian actors, is a sadly divisive error," said Lorde in a prepared statement. "At best, it demonstrates a gross insensitivity to the real-life situations of our South Asian sisters and brothers, and therefore to the rights of all people of color, to determine our own images as well as our own destinies."

The Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum has also declined to accept an award from Lambda at its May 20 simultaneous East- and West Coast dinners.

The board of Lambda has repeatedly stood by its claims that, despite that they now admit the benefit was a mistake, it was too late and too costly to pull out and cancel the show. While there was regret at Lorde's public decision, no mention was made of the influence and added legitimacy her action gave the protest.

Internally, staff members of Lambda voiced opposition to the benefit, stating their willingness to undergo layoffs, salary roll-backs, cuts in the load of cases Lambda is currently pursuing, and other alternatives to make up the difference for lost income.

Lambda responded officially to the uproar by sending letters to all ticket holders offering refunds if desired.

The preliminary net profit figure for Lambda from *Miss Saigon* was about $100,000.

The Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center of New York, which had scheduled a *Miss Saigon* benefit, did pull out after they analyzed the financial as well as public relations costs attached to their continued involvement. In sharp contrast to Lambda's board of directors, the Center acknowledged the conflict fully.

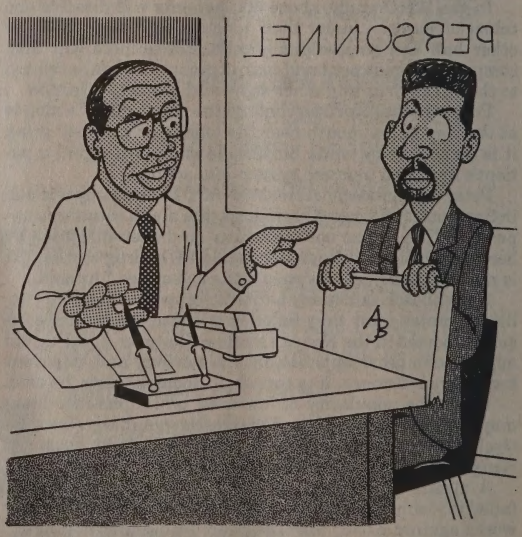
On April 20, at the demonstration outside the Broadway theater, police went for their nightsticks as they made six arrests during the benefit.

Over 300 demonstrators, mostly lesbians and gay people of color, including a contingent of members of Men of All Colors Together/New York, were already present when the police began forcibly controlling the crowd. Six protesters were arrested, two of which were reportedly clubbed by the police, their glasses smashed by nightsticks. They were later charged with disorderly conduct and resisting arrest—allegedly while immobilized by lack of vision because the police had destroyed their eyeglasses. One of those beaten by the police was Joe Pressley of Gay Men of African Descent, which also was represented at the demonstration.

Particularly surprising was that Ruth Herring, Deputy Director of Lambda acknowledged informing the police about the demonstration, although the group disavowed any responsibility for police brutality.

The 300 protesters represented more than 20 organizations banded together under the heading of "The Heat is on *Miss Saigon*: Coalition to End Racism and Sexism on Broadway."

Fifty-five New York City Police were on hand for the demonstration, which blocked traffic for five minutes at 53rd and Broadway. Two protesters who had been given tickets by a couple planning to attend the Lambda benefit caused a brief disruption during the performance before being escorted out of the theater.



"We can deal with the fact that your wife divorced you because you beat her and the kids, that you stopped using crystal and crack but still do meth, that you've declared bankruptcy three times in 14 years and that you've served time for armed robbery and murder. I mean we at U.S. Motor like to give people the benefit of the doubt. But I still think we have a problem. Is it true that you're gay?"

CHRISTOPHER STREET WEST

LOS ANGELES
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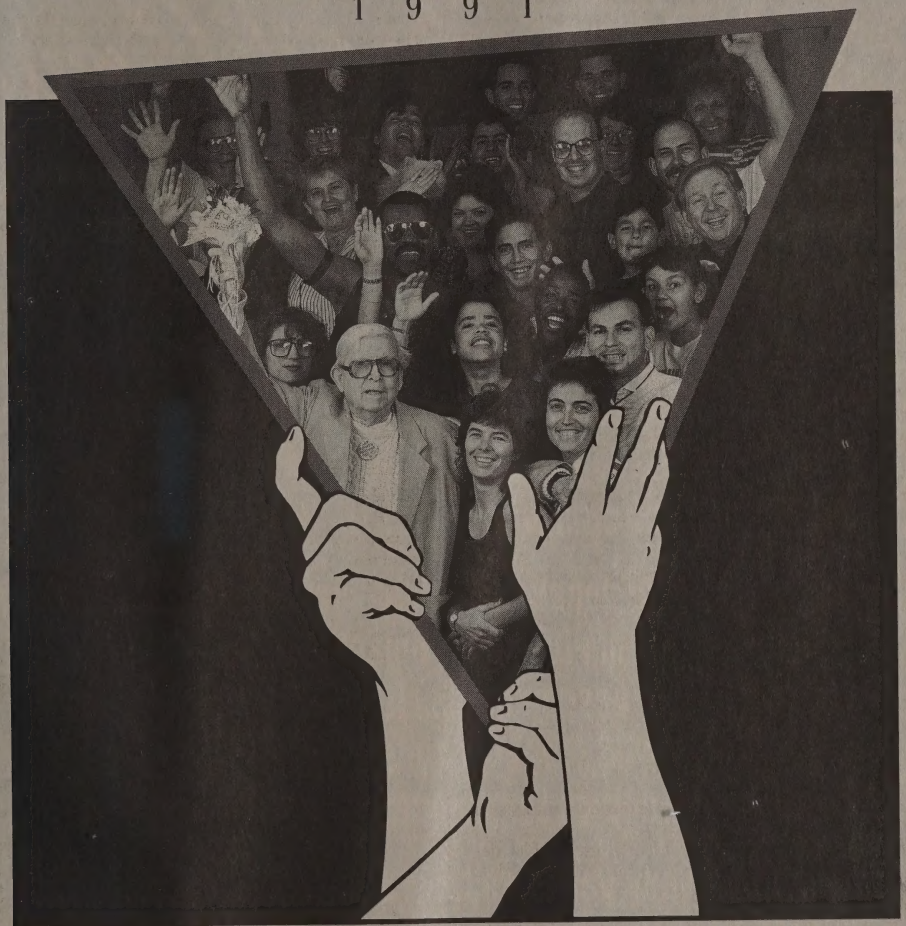

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Activists Still Unconvinced After Meeting with VA

WASHINGTON—A meeting convened by Congresswoman Maxine Waters May 14 to discuss a controversial study of the HIV/AIDS treatment AZT by the Veteran's Administration failed to shed any additional light on the issues raised by the study's findings, according to participants.

"The VA representatives were unable to answer any of our questions satisfactorily and generally treated everyone in a rather condescending fashion," said Reggie Williams, executive director of the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention.

"The answers provided were evasive at best," said Belinda Rochelle, lesbian and gay health lobbyist for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force," and the VA staff members did not even seem to realize they were dealing with a member of Congress who could seriously affect their funding until Congresswoman Waters made that clear to them."

Waters, serving her first term as a congressperson from Los Angeles, was appointed to the House Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs earlier this year.

Other participants in the meeting included Rev. Carl Bean of the Minority AIDS Project in Los Angeles; George Bellinger Jr. of the Minority AIDS Task Force in New York; Anita Taylor of the National Minority AIDS Council; and Phill Wilson, AIDS Coordinator for the City of Los Angeles.

Discussion at the meeting centered on the VA study, begun in 1987 and released in February, in which 338 veterans presenting symptoms of AIDS-related Complex were invited to participate. Half the men, known as the "early" group, were given 1500 mg. of AZT per day from the beginning of the study, while the other half, the "late" group, were given placebos until their T-cell counts fell below 200, at which point they were administered the same dosage of AZT.

Although race was not a factor in the research design, the study data developed in a manner that the VA decided could not be ignored. As a result, VA researchers concluded their comparison of the "early" and "late" groups is neutral or in favor of late AZT in the minority—defined as black and Latino—population.

Activists attending the meeting sought recognition of serious methodological flaws they saw which compromised the study's credibility. They also sought assurance that the VA would conduct additional studies specifically focusing on men of color.

No other studies of AZT have reported similar findings.

NGLTF Elects New Board

WASHINGTON—Activists Deborah Johnson, Carmen Vasquez and Ivo Dominguez, Jr. have joined Sabrina Sojourner, Geni Cowan and Robert Flores Saenz as board members of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. The 24 member board both appoints individuals to serve vacated seats and has members elected.

"Cultural diversity and the expansion of our financial base pose the most significant internal challenges for lesbian and gay organizations in the '90s," said NGLTF co-chair Susan Allee.

Johnson, Vasquez and Cowan are all from California; Sojourner now resides in Washington, D.C.; and Saenz lives in New York.

CDC April Statistics on AIDS Cases in U.S.

	White (not Latino)		Black (not Latino)		Latino		Asian/Pacific Islander		American Indian/ Alaskan Native		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
MALE												
Gay and bisexual contact	72,130	80	17,326	44	10,936	46	792	82	132	63	101,536	66
Straight IV drug use	5,877	7	13,915	35	9,202	39	32	3	22	10	29,118	19
Gay and bisexual contact, and IV drug use	6,576	7	3,091	8	1,622	7	21	2	32	15	11,354	7
Hemophilia and coagulation disorder	1,203	1	97	0	118	0	17	2	8	4	1,447	1
Straight contact	648	1	2,701	7	395	2	9	1	4	2	3,763	2
Receipt of blood transfusion, blood components or tissue	1,756	2	371	1	215	1	44	5	2	1	2,396	2
Other and undetermined	1,954	2	1,791	5	1,202	5	53	5	10	5	5,051	3
Male subtotal	90,144	100	39,292	100	23,690	100	968	100	210	100	154,665	100
FEMALE												
IV drug use	1,851	41	5,060	56	1,768	50	15	17	18	53	8,728	51
Hemophilia and coagulation disorder	26	1	7	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	35	0
Straight contact	1,363	30	2,957	33	1,320	38	31	35	8	24	5,699	33
Receipt of blood transfusion, blood components or tissue	970	21	315	4	188	5	27	30	4	12	1,508	9
Other and undetermined	317	7	651	7	237	7	16	18	4	12	1,230	7
Female subtotal	4,527	100	8,990	100	3,515	100	89	100	34	100	17,200	100
Total	94,671		48,282		27,205		1,057		244		171,865	

Source: "Adult/Adolescent AIDS Cases by Sex, Exposure Category and Race/Ethnicity Reported through April 1991, United States," U.S. Centers for Disease Control. HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, May 1991

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FREEWAY: Take 5 Freeway North to the 134 Freeway West. Exit at Riverside Dr. Make a left turn and come up to Zoo Dr. Make a right turn. Proceed about 1 mile. We will be located on the left hand side between Live Streamers and Travel Town.

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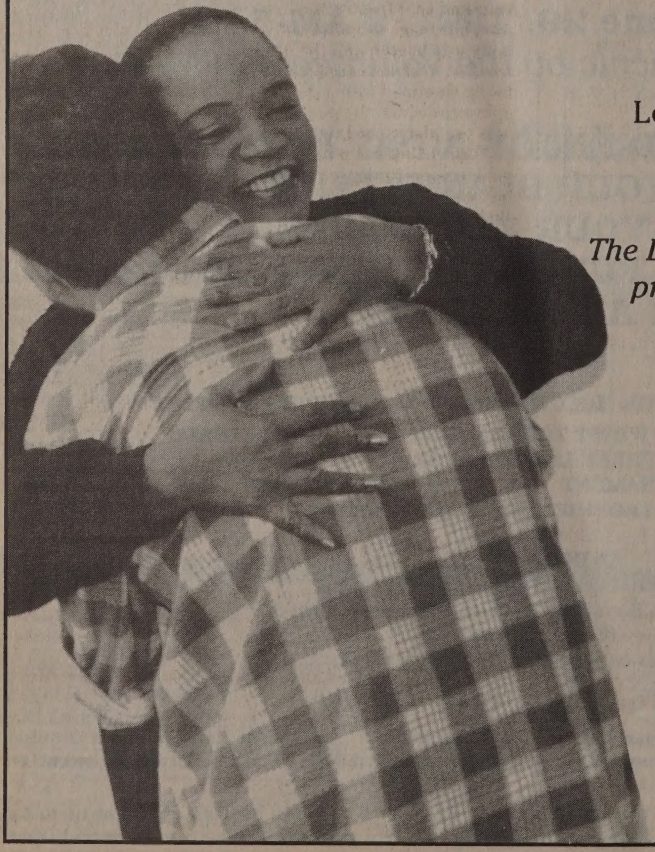

The Los Angeles Shanti Foundation provides emotional support and education to those affected by life threatening illness such as HIV/AIDS. For information on free services or to volunteer, contact Shanti at 213/962-8197.

L.A. SHANTI

Committee Works to Oust L.A. Cop Boss Daryl Gates

By Karen Ocamb

LOS ANGELES—In the wake of the March 3 videotaped beating of Rodney King by Los Angeles Police officers, all eyes have focussed on the turf war between Mayor Tom Bradley, the City Council and the Police Commission in their public battle over who controls the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and its chief, Daryl Gates.

Bradley has called for Gates to resign but says the City Charter prohibits him from firing the chief. The Police Commission tried to suspend Gates while they investigated the use of excessive force by LAPD officers, but the City Council challenged their authority and a court ruling upheld the Council's position.

Rodney King continues to have run-ins with various police departments in Southern California. He has been detained for a registration check, pulled over for inoperative taillights, and in the latest twist, arrested and released after picking up a transvestite sex worker on a section of Sunset Blvd. that borders Silverlake and east Hollywood.

When vice officers approached King's car, May 29, as he sat parked with his passenger, he apparently panicked, and threw the car in reverse. After dropping off his passgenger, he confronted the police cruiser, hollering, "Thank God I found you guys!" The officers said he looked terrified.

King was taken to the Northeast Division, booked and released. Police Chief Gates was awakened at 3 a.m. to handle the incident. When asked by reporters if King was under surveillance, Gates retorted, annoyed, that he was not.

Meanwhile City Councilmember Michael Woo, Congresswoman Maxine Waters, State Senator Diane Watson, Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum's Phill Wilson and many others from various black, lesbian and gay, Latino and Asian communities have joined together to protest what they say is a long history of LAPD brutality under Gates.

Working quietly in the background amid all the demonstrations and calls for Gates to resign is the Committee for the Removal of Daryl Gates. Initiated by college instructor Kerman Maddox during his unsuccessful run for City Council from the 8th District, the recall effort is slowly but steadily gaining momentum.

The King beating, Maddox says, is but the "latest indication of gratuitous police violence in the city." The LAPD under Chief Gates is completely out of control. But the message conveyed to the public by elected officials is that the "chief is above the law, he has a job for life, and nothing can be done."

Maddox and his campaign staff refuse to accept that. Realizing that Gates would never resign, they looked for an alternative and discovered language in the City Charter (Sections 297, 298,299) that would permit for a recall process. "If you get 63,000 valid signatures of registered voters in the City of Los Angeles by August 9, you can remove an appointed official, which is what the chief is," Maddox says. The City Council then would be required to call for a special election to ask one question: should Daryl Gates remain as chief of police. Yes or no?

Maddox says the recall effort is not simply the result of the King beating. "Rodney King is just the latest in a number of cases of absolute raw, street corner police terrorism. It dates back to 1979, to Eula Love, the elderly black woman in South Central who was shot and killed at the hands of LAPD because she was delinquent in paying her gas bill by $22."

Excessive force complaints also date back to the chokehold which LAPD officers used "to subdue suspects." During the early 1980s 21 people were killed, 19 of whom happened to be African American. According to Maddox, Gates explained that "the reason so many blacks die as a result of the chokehold is because the arteries in their neck are different from that of normal people. Black people are not normal, that's why they die in such disproportionate numbers."

Money is another reason the chief should be removed, Maddox argues. "Last year alone, in 1990, the City of Los Angeles paid out more money than any other city in the country except Detroit, over $11 million dollars to victims of police brutality, and that figure does not include what is going to be an astronomical settlement for Rodney King. That's taxpayers' money," says Maddox.

Maddox is also concerned that if Gates is not removed and if the four officers in the King case only receive a "slap on the wrist, there is a real possibility that rage could result in some acts of civil disobedience."

"The reason this movement is so critical," Maddox says, "is because it really is the only opportunity to channel that rage and that frustration in a positive direction." The Grand Jury's refusal to indict the 17 officers who stood by while King was beaten and the acquittal of Long Beach officers in the Don Jackson case (despite a videotape showing Jackson being slammed into a glass window), has created an atmosphere in which the public thinks that law enforcement officers are above the law," Maddox says.

"Daryl Gates is a lightening rod of controversy. This is a golden opportunity to remove a person who has set back racial relations, sexual relations some 30-40 years. What disturbs me is that we might miss a tremendous opportunity to retire the 1990 version of Bull Conner (the Southern Sheriff whose pot belly, bull horn and police dogs came to symbolize white resistance to integration in the early 1960s). We can do it if people come together," Maddox says. "But if we miss this opportunity, I think it's going to haunt us for a very, very long time."

Maddox has appealed to the lesbian and gay community to join the movement. "Probably the people at greatest risk of being brutalized at the hands of LAPD have to be African-Americans and Latinos who happen to be gay. That's like a double minority. I hope people would rise above whatever personal differences they have in their respective communities and unify behind the goal of removing the chief so we can get rid of the monster at the head of the Department."

Woodrow Myers Quits

NEW YORK—Controversial New York City Health Commissioner Dr. Woodrow Myers announced his resignation on May 28, effective June 11. Myers said he was leaving for personal reasons.

The GMHC immediately issued a statement urging Mayor David Dinkins to "select a new commissioner who can take an active and visible role on the range of health issues affecting our city."

Myers was appointed despite a long history of anti-gay and irrational HIV policies as health commissioner for the state of Indiana. Public outcry prevented him from implementing any quarantine or other similar measures during his year-long tenure.

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ILGA Drops Conference After Threats Increase

By Rex Wockner

GUADALAJARA, Mexico—The 13th World Conference of the International Lesbian and Gay Association, scheduled for June 30-July 6 in Guadalajara, Mexico, was cancelled June 12 after the mayor of Guadalajara promised he would have all the delegates arrested for "immoral behavior."

Mayor Gabriel Covarrubias Ibarra also promised to withhold police protection for the conference, which had been threatened by right-wing elements in the city. And he forced the host hotel to cancel its contract with ILGA and decreed that any other hotel that agreed to host the conference would be shut down by police.

The mayor of Guadalajara's wealthiest suburb and the governor of the state of Jalisco joined Covarrubias Ibarra in promising to take all steps necessary to prevent the conference.

The cancellation comes despite support for the conference from Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari and the Mexican National Human Rights Commission, and despite guarantees in the Mexican Constitution of U.S.-style freedom of assembly.

"After having tried every possible way to save the conference, it was decided with great sadness by the organizing committee and ILGA officers that the conference had to be cancelled," said ILGA Information Secretary Micha Ramakers, speaking from Brussels, Belgium.

"ILGA most strongly condemns this utterly homophobic attitude on the part of the local and state governments and urges everyone concerned about human rights to protest to the Mexican governments."

ILGA Co-Secretary General Lisa Power, speaking from London, said the mess in Guadalajara "shows how much the international lesbian and gay movement is needed. Neither the Mexican authorities nor any others will stop us fighting oppression and homophobia," she said. "The loss of the conference only increases our determination."

Conference organizer Jorge Romero Mendoza, of Guadalajara's Grupo Orgullo Homosexual de Liberacion (Homosexual Pride Liberation Group), said: "We are outraged by the actions of the homophobic authorities here. But they must now think we will be stopped from fighting them. We urge everybody to demonstrate at their local Mexican embassy and spread the news in their local media."

The loss of ILGA's annual conference comes as the organization faces "a financial crisis" brought on by its rapid growth. Almost 100 national and local lesbian and gay organizations have joined ILGA in the past two years, many from poverty-stricken Third World nations where activists cannot afford to pay ILGA membership dues.

The problem is exacerbated by the costs of international communication. ILGA's expenses are expected to outstrip its income this year by $13,000. The organization has no savings.

In the words of National Gay and Lesbian Task Force spokesman Robert Bray, "ILGA is the world's pre-eminent global lesbian and gay rights organization." Historically, ILGA is credited with forging the first links between the world's established and developing lesbian and gay movements.

The organization is perhaps best-known for routinely dropping piles of letters, telegrams and faxes on homophobic officials around the globe. Membership now numbers almost 300 local and national lesbian and gay organizations from 42 countries on six continents.

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NGRA Ceases Operations

SAN FRANCISCO—The National Gay Rights Advocates closed its doors on Castro St., finally succumbing under the weight of over a year of internal strife and dwindling donations. Once one of the most powerful and largest continuously operating lesbian and gay civil rights organizations, the NGRA could not recover from the series of scandals that had the whole country reeling.

Ironically, the public interest law firm was increasingly involved in assisting communities of color over the last year. Many of the court cases handled or assisted by the NGRA have been very important for minorities, such as the landmark Pacific Bell employment victory, housing for PWAs, the ongoing struggle to allow lesbians and gays into the military, and prohibitions against lesbians, gay men and people with HIV from entering the United States.

The remaining board members who didn't resign as the severity of NGRA's financial problems became known will be personally responsible for the outstanding debt, thought to be about $50,000.

The last black member of the board of directors, Howard Buford of New York City, is a vice president at an advertising agency. An activist since he was a youth participant in the Civil Rights marches in the '60s, Buford has sat on NGRA's board since 1989.

Pendulumers Win Race

SAN FRANCISCO—Marvin Ross and Aaron Nelson, sponsored by the Pendulum, won the 20th annual Great Tricycle Race on Memorial Day. Nelson and Ross persevered the three mile distance with a time of 27:51, in the event that helped raise thousand of dollars for lesbian and gay charities. This year's designated organization will be the Godfather Service Fund.

This is the third consecutive year that a team from the Pendulum has won, although it was a first time event for the two outfielders.

As Marla drinks her beer, it becomes apparent why she's the most popular woman in the bar.

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Read My Lips

by Preston G. Guider

In Chicago, as the first weekend of the summer featured heatwave temperatures in the 90s, **Oz Productions** put on their "Something Special" party at a South Loop hotel featuring **Michael Ezebukwu** jammin' the box 'til the wee hours of the morning. Meanwhile, 90 miles up the Great Lake, Milwaukee's Club Muse featured a picnic and cruise...**Nell Carter,** who recently lost her brother to AIDS, performed at a benefit to help fund **Continuum,** an adult day care center for PWAs. Continuum is the first such facility in California... The children have a new place for hanging out in the San Gabriel Valley, **Rosie's,** conveniently located equidistant between Altadena and Pomona in El Monte. Word-of-mouth already has the dancers driving out from L.A., but it's the first time we've heard house music in a barn...**Michelle Parkerson's** first film, *...But Then, She's Betty Carter,* about the legendary jazz vocalist screened at La Peña Center in Berkeley last month. Across the country in Philadelphia, she was on hand live taking part in the CEC's Feminist Film Series. She also appeared with **Julie Blackwomon, Joan Nestle** and **Jewelle Gomez** last month in a reading at The Center in New York. Blackwomon, meanwhile, appeared at Miriam's Tambourine in Philadelphia...**Whoopi Goldberg** was featured in an episode of *A Different World* recently as a teacher who supports an HIV positive student...We have responded to the AIDS epidemic in a number of ways, from research and treatment to political organizing and civil disobedience. The **Dream Machine,** which attempts to fulfill the dreams of terminally ill HIV patients, is yet another response to the AIDS crisis. **Donald Abernathy,** prime mover behind the organization, stresses that dream requests are selected on an individual basis without discrimination as to sex, sexual orientation, age, race or nationality. Call 714-753-3977 for more info...**Madonna** has reportedly told **Michael Jackson** she won't collaborate with him on a song unless he springs for a new wardrobe. So the *Bad* boy contacted the design houses of **Azzedine Alaïa, Jean-Paul Gaultier** and **Thierry Mugler,** among others, for proposals. Think he'll wind up wearing underwear as outerwear just like her?... Meanwhile, the Underwear Lady's two-part interview in the *Advocate* is *must* reading. A taste? "I keep telling Michael Jackson, 'I'd love to turn **José** and **Luis** [two of her openly gay dancers] on you for a week'," she said. "They'd pull you out of the shoe box you're in. Anybody who's in a shoe box in the closet cannot be in one after hanging around with Luis and José. Or me, for that matter"...Last month the proceeds from the Hollywood premiere of Madonna's film *Truth or Dare* went to **AIDS Project Los Angeles** and **AIDS Action Foundation,** while the proceeds from the New York opening went to the **American Foundation for AIDS Research.** The month before *that* saw Madonna at APLA's AIDS Dance-a-Thon during which 4,500 dancers raised over $900,000. The lady might be outrageous, but she's doing her part to make sure $$$ get to those who need it most...In San Francisco, **Lewis Johnson** was runner-up for the May spot on the Bare Chest Calendar...If **Steve Johnson,** the DJ at the Loading Dock in Chicago is not spoken for, give him our number...**Harvey Fierstein** doesn't condemn *In Living Color*'s black gay critics, Blaine Edwards and Antoine Merriweather. "I think they're funny," he said. "I think they're negative characters, but true. I think they're okay as long as they're not meant to represent all gays"...Could the troubles at **National Gay Rights Advocates** stem from bad karma due to an unfortunate acronym?...**Phill Wilson,** L.A.'s AIDS Coordinator, was on a Los Angeles County Board of Education panel last month discussing the needs of lesbian and gay students...*Out in Video* is a new quarterly newsletter featuring news and reviews about the latest video releases of interest to the lesbian and gay community. Contact Persona Press for a sample, Box 14022, San Francisco, Calif. 94114...The **Lesbian and Gay People of Color Steering Committee** held a benefit dance, "Everybody Dance Now!" at the **Limelight** on behalf of its 25 member organizations May 24... *Rolling Stone* recently published a photo of **Young M.C.,** the **Pet Shop Boys** and **Axl Rose,** taken backstage at a Pet Shop concert, as evidence that, in their words, "the world makes no sense whatsoever"...June 2 is **Gregory Adams Appreciation Day** at the **Eagle Creek** in San Francisco. It's a joint benefit for **BWMT/San Francisco** and **MACT/Greater Bay Area**...And how long is it going to take for these two factions, once warring, now lovey-dovey, to get back together officially? We don't much care about the politics of the matter. It just takes too long to type out both names...**BWMT/Detroit** held a benefit at **Menjo's** with cash prizes for the most sophisticated attire and the most outrageous attire. We wonder if the same outfit won both prizes... **Eric Carrier** was selected "favorite bartender" at the Bonham Exchange's Cinderella Ball...A speech at Emory University by U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services **Louis Sullivan** was disrupted last month when two dozen activists stood up and began chanting while they marched out of the hall. Most were members of the **Emory Lesbian and Gay Organization** and **ACT-UP/Atlanta**...It happened on the No. 4 bus in Hollywood, so you know it's true. Two brats at Santa Monica and Fairfax were hassling the RTD bus driver at full volume when their attention turned to two drag queens passsing by. Now anybody knows you just don't go screaming "faggot" at drag queens on Santa Monica Blvd. and expect them not to do anything about it. Those two drag queens proceeded to whip their misbehaving little behinds, with applause and cheers from the passengers on the bus. We'll teach Schwartzkopf a new twist on his "Hail, Mary" ploy...**Alice Walker** signed copies and read from her new

The Association of Southern White Women for the Prevention of Lynching tries to justify the fundraiser it held in conjunction with the premiere of *Birth of a Nation.*

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book, *Her Blue Body Everything We Know,* at **Charis Books** in Atlanta recently. She did a repeat at the **Woodward Center** in Albuquerque last month...**Mary Helen Washington** was featured at **Lammas** in D.C...Longtime D.C. evangelist **Rev. Delores Berry** conducted a special service at **Dawn of Faith Metropolitan Community Church** in Houston last month...Wasn't that **Collette** and **Jane** we spotted at **Club Q**'s Bra Party?...About 15 people attended a forum on racism held at the offices of the *Gay People's Chronicle* in April... **Jewel's Catch One** was the subject of a four-column story in the *Los Angeles Times* last month, titled "If You Disco, You Should Catch This One." *Times* writer Jeannie Stein wrote, "The relentless funk-pop tracks attract incredible dancers, human vortexes who spin with apparent weightlessness, feet moving in fast-forward time, eyes set in concentration." Translation: The folks at the Catch are *serious* dancers ...**Henry's Palace,** a black-owned and operated gay bar on Chicago's westside opened its doors last month for the first time. Henry—there really is one—offered a complimentary salad buffet, fruit punch and plenty of high fives all around as both video screens featured the Chicago Bulls turning the Detroit Pistons attempted three-peat into a sweep defeat. After the game the homies wanted to know why the Coalition's AIDS education project, **B.R.O.T.H.E.R.R.S.,** was handing out standard condoms when the brothers at Henry's all needed extra large ones...Thirty peer counselors in **Inner City AIDS Network**'s sixth class graduate this month in ceremonies held at D.C.'s **Mt. Carmel Baptist Church**... The **Black Men's Xchange/Los Angeles** held a forum last month titled, "Are Gay Groups Racist." The discussion centered on outing, Queer Nation vs. Arsenio Hall, multi-issue and single-issue organizing, BWMT and Afrocentric gays, and the splits within ACT-UP...I'm told that watching **Keith** dance is one of the chief reasons to stop in at J.J.'s in Chicago...A jazz concert benefit featuring **Miche Braden** is being held June 2 for **Mama Doesn't Know! Productions.** Call 212-827-6350 for info...**Larry Taylor,** a member of the Milwaukee Pride Committee, was one of those who helped serve spaghetti at the group's fundraiser in Wauwatosa... **BWMT/Baltimore** celebrated its ninth birthday last month with a wine and cheese reception, two AIDS workshops, a banquet and a buffet brunch cruise aboard the Bay Lady... **Queer Nation,** which describes itself as a "queer-identified, multicultural, polygendered, direct action group dedicated to promoting queer visibility and eliminating homophobia and heterosexist privilege," is holding a series of workshops and events June 14-30. Among the African-Americans participating are **Karl Knapper, Midget, Brian Gupton, Reggie Williams** and **Pat Norman**...Individuals from **ACT-UP/ Chicago** and the **Chicago Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays** leafleted the crowd at the 23rd annual African Liberation Day parade and rally May 25. While one speaker at the rally declared that the Pan African community was being destroyed from within by AIDS and drugs, the flyer being distributed urged attendance at an **American Medical Association** protest for a change in AMA AIDS policies... **IMPACT-DC**'s "Touch by Touch" benefit rolls out the biggest names June 30, including **Louis Sullivan, Sharon Pratt Dixon, Eleanor Holmes Norton, Maxine Waters** and **Jesse Jackson.** The unique event consists of 20 private homes, each the setting for a dinner for 20 people, culminating with the three-hour cruise on the Potomac. You can be a benefactor for $1000 or, if funds are tight, a sponsor for $500. Call 202-546-7228 for info...Practically everyone in L.A. is rooting for the Lakers's **Magic Man** to cream Chicago Bulls superstar **Michael Jordan.** That is, everyone except us. We'd do anything, believe anything or say anything Mr. Jordan told us to do, believe or say—anytime, anywhere, anyplace. We just want Mr. Jordan to be happy.

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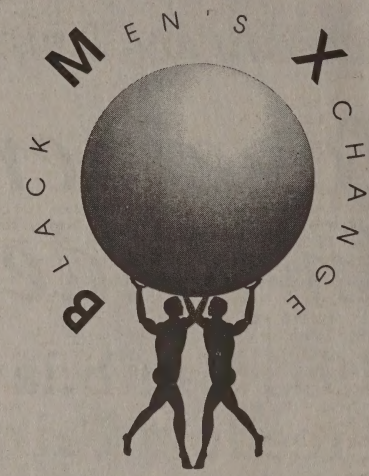

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Illustrator. If you'd like exposure and you're willing to put in time for almost no pay, call 213-410-0808. Or write BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. Will train the right person. (29)

Minority AIDS Project needs volunteers to act as facilitators for HIV prevention skills and behavior change multi-session groups. Group sessions meet at various locations throughout Los Angeles on afternoons or evenings or weekends. Target population: homeless, substance abusers, IV drug users, prostitutes. Volunteers need car, must complete facilitator training requirements. Background and/or training in counseling or group facilitation is a plus. Call Frankie Lennon, Mon. through Fri., from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 213-936-4949. (29)

News Writer. Must be accurate and willing to write "just the facts." Not looking for an investigative journalist, but someone to cover the routine but often interesting events in our community. If this sounds like you, and you're willing to put in time for almost no pay, call 213-410-0808. Or write BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. Will train the right person. (29)

Seattle gay, lesbian and bisexual youth program seeks program director to staff volunteer program committee, supervise program staff and provide administrative support for projects: Youth interns, youth info phoneline, homophobia training for schools and agencies, youth of color outreach, recreation program, etc. American Friends Service Committee is an EOE and AA employer. For information/application contact Karen Welsh, AFSC, 814 N.E. 40th St., Seattle, WA 98105, or phone 206-632-0500. Position closes July 5, 1991 at 5 p.m. (31)

CALLS FOR SUBMISSION

Other Countries, the New York-based organization of writers and artists of African descent, has extended the deadline for submissions to their second journal to June 15, 1991. The second volume will focus on AIDS and will be the first collective response to the crisis ever published by gay men of African descent. As with the organization's first journal, the emphasis will be on diversity. Poetry, short stories, interviews, essays, art and graphics will all be included. In addition, both beginning and established authors will be represented. Submissions should be sent along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Other Countries Journal, Box 3142, New York, NY 10008-3142. (31)

An anthology of writing and artwork by Asian/Pacific lesbians is being compiled by Anne Mi Ok Bruining and Sharon Lim-Hing of Asian Lesbians of the East Coast. The genres are poetry, essays, short stories, autobiography and any artwork that can be reproduced in a book. Themes include but are not limited to the following: identity, sexuality, politics/social constructs, relationships, work/professions/careers, life cycles, disabilities and activities and interests. The deadline is Dec. 15, 1991, and submissions should be sent to Anne Mi Ok Bruining, 41 Shaw Rd., Little Compton, RI 02837. (31)

Work from emerging lesbian and gay artists sought by East Village alternative space. Group show this fall to be juried by gallery curators. Must be 26 years and under. Deadline July 1. Notification by August. Include 10-15 slides, an SASE for return, phone number and info to: Emerging Artists, Box 1544, New York, NY 10009. Women and people of color encouraged to apply. (31)

Celebration Theatre is seeking submissions for its second Open and Out Festival slated for Sept. 13-29 at the new theatre, 7051 Santa Monica Blvd., Hollywood. projects should be easily staged for workshop productions/readings and works about lesbians and people of color are especially encouraged. Submissions should be received by July 15 and sent to John Callahan, Celebration Theatre, 4470-107 Sunset Blvd. #353, L.A., CA 90027. (31)

Gay Games IV announces an open competition for a new logo. The logo must include the words "Unity '94" and work with or without the words "Gay Games IV." The design should reflect the theme of unity and may also include references to gay and lesbian athletes, gay and lesbian symbology or the location, New York City. The overall look should be clean and contemporary, work large or small, and in color or black and white. The winning design will be used on all Games promotional materials, merchandise, exhibits and event venues. Winners will receive a "Lifetime" membership to Gay Games IV, including tickets to special events, and samples of all Games merchandise using the logo. The panel of judges will include celebrity judges as well as design professionals, and the winner will be announced at a special kickoff party in the fall. The deadline is July 4, 1991 and there is a limit of 5 designs per entrant. For more information and an entry form, write: Logo Competition, NY in '94, Box 202, N.Y., NY 10036. People of color urged to apply. (31)

Gay siblings anthology seeking manuscripts in the form of narratives or interviews telling significant, humorous, tragic or poignant stories of lesbians and gay men with their gay siblings. Non-fiction essays of all types will be considered. SASE. Deadline July 1, 1991. Don and Molly Martin, 1016 E. 7th Ave., Olympia, WA 98501. (29)

The Conditions Collective is accepting submissions for an anthology of writing by women on censorship to be published by Cleis Press. The Collective will consider fiction, poetry, analytical essays, novel excerpts, and translations on this topic. How does censorship relate to the issues of, for example, race, class, age, relationships, sexuality, women in prison, women with AIDS/HIV, and women's and lesbian movements? The writings could also explore the ramifications of censorship on future writing; the ways that women censor one another and themselves; or the homophobic hysteria over gay and lesbian writing and visual images. Visuals will also be considered. The Conditions Collective welcomes the work of women all around the world who feel

that a commitment to women is an integral part of their lives. Please send submissions, before June 1, 1990, (typed, double-spaced, up to 15 pages, with a SASE for return) to: Conditions, Box 1640, New York, NY 10003. (29)

PLACES TO LIVE

Hollywood Bowl area. Looking for a masculine, gay or bisexual roommate to share two bedroom with loft apartment. 1300 sq. ft. with washer and dryer in unit. Secured parking. Central air. $565 monthly. First and last month rent. Charlie, 213-874-6541. (29)

Chino/Pomona area GBM seeks roommate. 3 bedroom 3 bath townhouse, pool/spa/all luxury amenities. $350/mo. 714-628-2443. (30)

Roommate to share 2 bedroom house in Ladera-View Heights area. Quiet neighborhood. Furnished bedroom, share rest of house and yard. Cable TV available. Prefer non-smoker professional responsible male or female 25-35. Rent $450/mo incl. util. Call 213-292-1590. (30)

Single apartment. Furnished. USC area. Mature adult. $400 per month. Call Dennis 213-731-3659. (30)

Three bedroom townhome, large bedroom and bath for rent. Quiet area, clean environment. $450 includes utilities. Move in immediately. For more information call 213-299-6758. (29)

FOR SALE

Skins, the fanzine for kinky uncut men. Free ads. Sample copy: $4 and statement of age. CB&V, Box 97694, Las Vegas, NV 89193. (39)

Hot sex! You can have it with this amazing herbal formula. Increases stamina and enhances sex drive. 100% natural. Safe and effective. Send $10 + SASE to Delacroix, 7605 Santa Monica Blvd. #610-B, Los Angeles, CA 90046. (30)

Bold black men in creatively hot photos! For intro set (10 men-10 photos) send age (21+), signature, $10 to Zebra Studios, Box 138271, Chicago, IL 60613. (31)

Gay magazines. Pack of 6 hot used magazines. Just $15. P&H, Inc. Send check or M.O. to Island Marketing, 127 S. Shore Dr., Island Lake, IL 60042, State you are 21. (37)

BLK T-shirts, satin jackets, baseball caps, sweatshirts, key tags, back issues, note cards, etc. now available mail order. Write: BLK Mail and Femail Store Catalog, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. Or call 800-TRUE-BLK, anytime 24 hours a day, seven days a week. (TF)

MASSEURS

Big, black and hairy, 38, 6'1", 175 lbs., lean, fit, top man, hung 8x6, cut, $50 min. in/out, ask for Mike. 213-874-9203. (29)

Attractive, well-built guy (29, 5'7", 140#), experienced, offers deep thorough relaxing massage to other in-shape guys by candlelight, table, $40 in West Hollywood, $? out. Greg, 213-650-6265. Calls verified. (30)

Randy Cochran. 818-997-3776. L.A.'s hot top black studman. Hung huge, yet versatile. 28, 5'9", 160 lbs., with a tight smooth body. 24-hour, in-out sessions. $125-$200/hr. Video titles include "Black Attack," "Heatwaves," "Black Force" and many more. Visits are in person...Not associated with 976-WOLF. Safe sex okay. (29)

The Real McCoy. Very handsome Italian professional, 29, great body, offers custom-tailored 5-star bodywork to the discerning man. Atmosphere, style, technique and more. Quite simply...the best! 213-288-6800. (31)

I'm Thomas, a tall, goodlooking white masseur near Palm Springs airport. Let me work on your stressed-out body and soul. 619-322-8077. (E)

Stop. Handsome, bubble-butted athlete will rub you in all the right spots. Don't be duped by phony masseurs. Let my legit, certified hands do the walking on your stressed body. $40 in. $60 out. 95% recall. Call Bryan. 213-224-0243. 24 hours. (29)

WOMEN'S PERSONALS

SBM, 40, very dominant arty type, likes dtraight, submissive bi-ladies, lesbians. No phonies, drugs. I'm hot and kinky. Hurry! BLK Mailbox #124. (E)

Hampton Roads, Virginia area. Single, black bisexual female, professional, 31, in search of feminine lesbian or bi-female for relationship varied interests. No fats, drugs, drugs or marrieds. Photo and note appreciated to BLK Mailbox #121. (E)

GBF, 25, graduate student, eclectic interests, multi-talented, new to the life, looking to connect with other GBFs from all over, especially Atlanta, Toledo/Detroit, D.C. for friendship and a sense of community. Will answer all. BLK Mailbox #132. (29)

BF, 26, student, not looking for romance through this ad. However, I would like to exchange postcards, short notes or long letters with women from all over. I live in Detroit. BLK Mailbox #107. (E)

Soulful, diamond in the raw, 19, African-American ISO lasting friendships with multi-cultured, positive lesbian sisters USA/abroad (18-?). Will answer all. Maria, 329 Childress Lane, Flora, MS 39071-9740. (29)

Fluffy, feminine, early 40s, fun-loving, witty, sensitive, romantic, who appreciates nature, intimacy, looking for independent butch. I am 5'7½", sexy, plump. Seek friendship first. Who knows what can happen? BLK Mailbox #115. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS INTERNATIONAL

Canadian GWM, 34, 5'9", 160#, attractive, masculine, fit, blue eyes, dark blond hair, beard, university student, enjoys reading, movies, videos, pen pals, swimming, outdoors, travel, seeks friends, any race or age, anywhere. T.H., Box 46612, Stn. G, Vancouver, BC V6R 4G8, Canada. (30)

GWM, 42, 5'6", 120, G/P F/A/P seeks 19-30 verbal abusive athletes. Correspondence welcomed. M.P.O. Box 15475, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 5B2, Canada. Jimmy, 604-683-7393, noncollect, 12 p.m.-11 a.m. (29)

Attractive Ghanaian 23, seeks white and black penpals 20-30 years. Write: Jack, Box 3879, Accra, Ghana, West Africa. (31)

White French man lives in Paris, 37 years, romantic, serious. Seek black bottom men masculine, like dildo, rubber, exchange naked hot photos together. Also look for some black videos, black worldwide are welcome. M. Francois, 15 rue Carmen, 94240 L'Hay les Roses, France. (29)

Attractive GWM, 38, 5'11", 165 lbs, dark hair, green eyes, moustache, hairy, well-built, Greek active, seeks big, muscular, masculine, Greek passive black or latino friends. Will travel. Visitors welcome to Paris. Photo please. P. Atlan, 8 Passage Lathuile, 75018 Paris, France. (31)

Visiting Italy? Bearded couple awaits BMs. D. Russo, Via Massena 51, Torino 10128, Italy. (29)

Active Japanese seeks muscular BM. Fujinuma, Nihontsutsumi 2-16-6, Taitoku, Tokyo, Japan. (29)

GWM, teddy-bear, seeks dominant black male tops for intimate friendship and fun. Doug, #103-4800 Arbutus, Vancouver, BC V6J 4A5. 604-263-3991. (TF)

MEN'S PERSONALS—AL

Black hung seeking black hung. Box 602, Huntsville, Alabama 35804. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—CA

Northern California

BM looking for BM. I am 5'10", 30 years old, 160 lbs., workout, have good job. If you would like a date, send photo to 438 Staten #302, Oakland, CA 94610. (29)

Phone sex. Black men only. 415-775-4919. (29)

Bodybuilder, top, SASE. Emmette Mitchell, C-22649 C-7-C-230, Box 29, Represa, CA 95671. (31)

GBM, 26, 5'7", handsome, discreet, non-smoker, would like to meet a young, handsome, masculine male under 5'10", for friendship and traveling. No feminine or fats. Send letter, photo and phone number to Box 20514, Oakland, CA 94620. (29)

Huge white hole eats dildos. Stretch it! Call hole. 415-585-8717. (E)

GBM, 33, bottom, seeks top bi or GBM, discreet, bright. Box 70571, Oakland, CA 94612. (33)

San Diego Area

Very special French-American businessman, 39, 5'11", 170 blond, masculine, non-smoker, non-drinker, healthy HIV+, intelligent, energetic, low-key, would like to share good times and travel between Europe and the U.S. with tall black man or Latino (over 6'2" if possible), educated, fun, very masculine (muscles not important), professional, strong, top, truly heavily hung and long-lasting. Must be of excellent character. I have a lot to offer. Try me. You'll be glad you did. BLK Mailbox #125. (29)

Sapien erectus! Wanna unload? It's O.K.! Phone 619-292-1922 now! (29)

Beefy GWM stud seeking expert oral service. Call Larry, 619-324-8964. (E)

Free! Fone fun for all cummers. A.C. 619-292-1922. Anytime. (31)

White boy seeks hung tops. Write Box 3411, La Mesa, CA 91944. (31)

WGM, 45, short, stocky, beard, Greek passive, French active/passive, seeks black man 35-55 for hot safe sex, ? relationship. No drugs. No bars. Will reply to all. Box 710183, San Diego, CA 92171. (29)

BM, Palm Springs area needs beginner BM for work-out buddy, maybe more. 619-324-5450, answer machine. (31)

Palm Springs topman seeking playmates! Boxholder #3337, PS, CA 92263. (E)

Male looking for hung, biBM. T.G., Box 3391, San Diego, CA 92163. (30)

GWM, masculine, top man. Larry, Box 3337, Palm Springs, CA 92263. (E)

Los Angeles Area

GWM has talented tongue to service GBM front and rear. Try me. Randy, Box 74241, Los Angeles, CA 90004. Will pay. (31)

Attractive masculine black male bottom 30s, 6', 170, wants to meet very well hung masculine top studs hung 9" and over for safe fun and friendship, uncut a +. 213-932-8375 after 7 p.m. and weekends. (30)

Black on black pen pals wanted. Let's become friends. DCP, Box 84174, L.A., CA 90073. (30)

GBM, 41, 5'11", 147, beard & moustache seeks GWM for sincere correspondence. All letters answered. Sumari, Box 69265, L.A., CA 90069. (31)

If you're GBM with a big cock, call Alex 818-896-8890. Blond wants to please you. (31)

GBM, 26, 5'10", 170 lbs, L.A. area, muscular, attractive, athletic, smooth skin and face, passive but not femme. Seeks handsome, muscular, athletic GBM/BiBM for friendship first and possible relationship. An awareness of the struggles of the African-American community and culture helps. BLK Mailbox #128. (30)

GWM has talented tongue to service GBM front and rear. Try me. Randy,

THE BLACK GAY MEN'S RAP

Together We Can Work It Out!

1st and 3rd Friday
6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
M.A.P.
5149 Jefferson Blvd.
Los Angeles
For More information
213-936-4949

The Legal Stuff

■ **Complete and sign the following. None of this information will appear in your ad.**

Name_____

Address_____

City_____

State_____ Zip_____

Phone (_____) _____

■ I am an adult of legal voting age and consent to the placing of my ad in BLK. I understand that the Blk Publishing Company is in no way responsible for any transactions between myself and any persons I contact through its publications.

Signed_____

The Rates

■ **Personal ads** of 8 words or fewer are free if this form is used and your ad is sent by mail. No duplicates or copies. More than 8 words, the rate is 40 cents per additional word. Abbreviations are unnecessary since you are charged by the word.

■ **Employment offered ads** may be placed at the rate of 10 cents per word. There is no limit to the number of words.

■ **All other ads** take the rate of 40 cents per word.

BLK Mailboxes

■ **Mailbox number and forwarding service.** You may have the replies to your *personal or employment offered ad* sent to a BLK Mailbox for $7 per month. Replies are forwarded to you in a plain envelope once a week, for six weeks after your ad appears. Mail may not be picked up in person.

■ **Replying to a BLK Mailbox.** Only letters may be sent to BLK Mailboxes. They may not be used for the distribution of bulk mail or circulars. To reply, address your envelope:

BLK Mailbox #_____
BLK Classifieds
Box 83912
Los Angeles, California 90083-0912

The Rules

■ Deadline: First Friday of the month of publication.

■ Ads received after deadline will appear in the following issue.

■ Open account billing available on approved credit. Terms: Net 10 EOM. Minimum charge is $15. *Credit must be approved in advance.*

■ **Rules and regulations.** *A word is any group of letters or numbers with a space on either side of it.* Free ads may run a maximum of three times, then must be renewed. We reserve the right to reject, rewrite or edit ads including those that advertise or solicit sexual acts considered unsafe by current AIDS criteria. Telephone numbers in ads must be verified prior to publication at a charge of $3 (within California $1). If a number has been previously verified by BLK, attach an ad containing the number to your new ad. Advertiser's complete name, address and authorizing signature must accompany ad. This information is confidential and will not appear in your ad.

By Telephone

■ You may place your ad by telephone and charge it to Visa, MasterCard or American Express if your order totals $15 or more.

■ Call toll-free 800-TRUE-BLK anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Tell the computer which credit card you have, the card number, expiration date and what you want your ad to say.

By Mail

■ Completely free ads may only be placed by mail.

■ Ads that are not completely free may be paid by check, Visa, MasterCard or American Express. Do not send cash.

■ Send to: BLK Classifieds, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912.

By Credit Card

■ Minimum for credit card billing is $15 whether by phone or by mail.

Name of credit card_____ Expires_____

Credit card number_____

Your Ad

■ **Print clearly what you want to appear in your ad. Use a separate sheet if you need more space.**

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■ **Figure cost of ad:**

_____ words at 40¢ (8 free if personal ad) $_____

_____ words at 10¢ (employment ads) $_____

Cost to run ad one month $_____

Number of times you want ad to run _____

Total cost of ads $_____

Phone verification at $3 (within CA $1) $_____

BLK Mailbox at $7 per month $_____

One-year subscription at $18 to BLK $_____

Total enclosed (send no cash) $_____

The Black Line

Where all men are welcome.

1-900-468-2522

Call Now!

1-900-HOT-BLACK

$1 Per Min • $2 Connection Charge • Must Be 18 Or Older • Prices Subject To Change Without Notice

GET A LITTLE... FUN!

INTRODUCTIONS

CONFESSIONS

VOICEMAIL

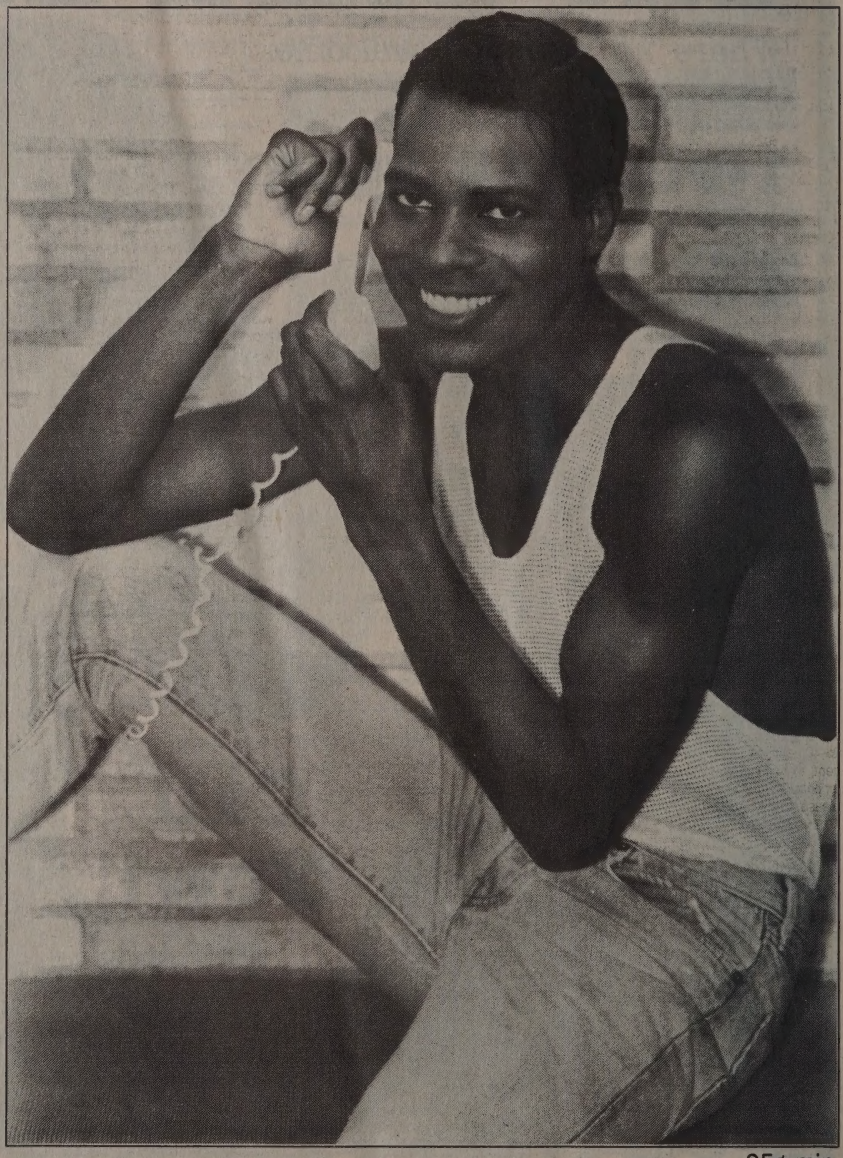
FANTASIES

JOKES

ADVICE

HELPFUL HINTS

PERSONAL SERVICES



95¢ min.

1-900-FUN-1990

3 8 6

Box 74241, Los Angeles, CA 90004. Will pay. (31)

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If you're GBM with a big cock, call Alex 818-896-8890. Blond wants to please you. (31)

Sit on my face! Box 86651, L.A., CA 90086. (31)

Cute blond bottom seeks giant buffed dominant man. 818-765-5132. (31)

Discreet professional black male, a body worshipper, seeks muscular, chubby, husky, bodybuilder type men with super, super big thighs & super, super big bubble butt for friendship. 213-933-3098. (31)

Affection, passion, companion, HIV-. Box 5950243, Orange, CA 92667.(31)

21, GBM, seeks GWM. J. Palley, 10725 Acama #14, North Hollywood, CA 91602. (30)

Commitment and values: B/M, 38, 5'11", 170, G/P seeks an affectionate tall G/A white or black top man 40-55 who likes 1-to-1, homelife, mountains and stability. Mel, Box 712427, LA 90071. 213-656-0258 ext. 22. (34)

If you're blk and top man, enjoy getting sucked, and hung maxx size and horny, call Jim. 818-344-1913. No calls on Sat. (30)

BGM, 33, healthy HIV+, attractive, 5'11" 150 lbs., sincere, sensitive, spiritual and professional. Looking for BGM, 25-40, sensitive, affectionate, intelligent, masculine, employed and a top for possible relationship. L.A. area only please. Prefer non-smoker, absolutely no drugs. Box 2913, Culver City, CA 90230. (30)

Gay black intellectual sought by attractive, talented GWM, 35. I'm 6', 170, blue eyes. I value intelligence, sense of humor. Films, concerts, museums, romance? BLK Mailbox #129. (30)

Footbal player, beefy weightlifter wanted. U—love to cuddle. I—love to massage. We—need to belong. Black man, 41, 5'9", 180, workout. Box 29037, Los Angeles, CA 90029. (32)

Seek nine inches plus safe sex. I'm blond, blue, 5'11", 160, 30s, good shape. 213-657-5444. (30)

Handsome WM, 35, seeks olderman 37-57. I am 6', 180, built, muscular (weightlifter), non-promiscuous physician. You be loving, burly, 200 lbs. plus, paunchy but stocky type, honest and very masculine. I am not into "gay scene." BLK Mailbox #126. (30)

Black dick seeks warm mouth. Edward, 213-938-4964. (30)

Sexy French muscular bodybuilder, 30, 5'10", 175 bubblebutt, green-blue eyes, longs for tall, massive, super muscular, thick, bodybuilder over 200 lbs., any race, for friendship and safe fun. Am discreet, sophisticated. 213-656-2942. (33)

If you're a tall healthy GBM with a big cock, call Lee at 818-896-8890. This GL blond wants to please you. (30)

Tony of Wilton Place. Call Lee at 818-896-8890. (30)

GBM, 26, 5'10", 170 lbs, L.A. area, muscular, attractive, athletic, smooth skin and face, passive but not femme. Seeks handsome, muscular, athletic GBM/BiBM for friendship first and possible relationship. An awareness of the struggles of the African-American community and culture helps. BLK Mailbox #128. (30)

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Magician seeks men of color into magick/witchcraft. Seriouses. 213-461-1338. (30)

Wanted: Non-angry GBM for tender relationship w/GWM artist, 36. Size unimportant. Ray Box 46846, L.A. 90046. (30)

Professional, very busy, 5'11", 160, 30s, seeks 8 inches or more. Safe sex. Financial arrangement for your time. F. Hammond, 8721 Santa Monica Blvd., #125, West Hollywood, CA 90069.(30)

BM, plump top, needs a bottom BM with dark, dark skin for safe fun. I like men 5'10" to 6'2" that like the bottom. A big tool is A+. Let the fun begin. David, Box 84174, L.A., CA 90073. (29)

BM. Black hips. Can I immerse 7½ real deep? D.P., Box 84174, L.A., CA 90073. (29)

GWM seeks GBM, handsome, hairy N.Y. Greek, 28, 165#, 5'10", well-built with Mel Gibson looks. Seeks well-built nice GBM, 25-38, for friendship or workout partner. Leave message, 24 hour. Mel. 213-281-1171. (30)

If your sex black tool is extra large (diameter and/or length) I challenge you to try me. I am 35 years old, Latino, 140 pounds, 5'7", bilingual. Letter and/or nude photo. Mr. V., Box 761326, Los Angeles, CA 90076. (31)

Sincere, slender black male artist seeks handsome, very aggressive, versatile, sincere, homo erectus, any race. No chubbies, queens or losers. Call 213-661-1431. (33)

Great looking couple. Black top, 45, white bottom, 30, like to meet black top/white bottom duo for friendship and safe sex. Box 42794, LAX 90050-0794. (30)

Blk/Hispanic male seeks masculine Asian, Hispanic or Black bottoms. You: 5'9" or taller, tanned to medium brown complexion. Must be G/P 25 to 35 yrs and able to make love to 9" of uncut condomed manmeat. Me: G/A 28 yrs 5'11" light brown skin, brown hair and eyes, attractive, 160 lbs. Your picture gets mine. Interested? Write: Mr. G., 3765 Motor Ave. #1094, LA, CA 90034. No fats or fems please. (29)

Volunteer research subjects are needed for a study concerning experiences and meanings of multiple AIDS-related losses. If you are a gay man who has lost 5 or more loved ones to AIDS, and would be willing to share your experiences, please call for a confidential interview: 213-876-7197. (29)

Amateur WM physique photographer in Baldwin Hills seeks masculine guys to model in exchange for prints. Personal use only. Phone number to D. Smith, Box 341515, L.A. 90034 (29)

Goodlooking, intelligent BGM, will be in San Francisco late June, early July. Want to meet Latin or Asian men 25-35. Politically active, literate, non-drinker, non-smoker. Prefer same. Reply BLK Mailbox #130. (29)

Good looking butch masculine fit bottom seeks BL/Latin top. I'm 31, 6'3", 200. You are hung, 25-45, affectionate lover cause I'm the best. Photo/phone to BLK Mailbox #131. (29)

Me: GWM 39 professional, likes music, desert, beach, blond blue eyes, bottom but versatile, hung & fair shape. You: GBM top, hung, 35-50, into hot sex and fun activities. Seeking friend not lover. Photo/letter to 9671 Magnolia #107, Riverside, CA 92503. (29)

Latins R us! Latins and admirers meet in a discreet way, active organization with members worldwide. For free info send SASE to: HMS, 8721 Santa Monica Blvd. #338-B, Hollywood, CA 90069. (29)

Hot raunchy white wants domination. Box 86651, L.A. 90026. (30)

White seeks black for friendship and more. GWM, 32, body-builder, seeks GBM, 27 to 40. Me: honest, energetic, intelligent, mature, passionate, loving, assertive but versatile, capable of compromise, professional, handsome, masculine, muscular, brown hair, blue eyes, 6'2", 195#, 8x5½", bubble-butt. You: similar man of excellent character, ready and capable of being an equal partner, 6'2" to 6'5", 9x6½+", dark and muscular and healthy. Call 619-322-6292. You won't be bored! (31)

Goodlooking, easy-going, very oral, sensual, safe, flexible, fun GWM, professional, 43, 180 6', moustache, hairy chest, seeks very muscular only (bodybuilder a plus), black male for pleasurable, discreet contact. Call 213-913-0259 before 10 p.m. (30)

Attractive and successful bl_k writer seeks intelligent and articulate man of any race for travel, dating, romance. I am 30, 5'9", 140, swimmer. Call, leave message, 213-222-1115, or write Box 421145, Los Angeles, CA 90042. (29)

Black male, 35, 175 pounds, 5'8", bottom, wants to meet bodybuilder for mutual workouts. Race not important. 2600 Azusa Ave. #273, W. Covina, CA 91792. (30)

Gay male, 37, 5'9", 165 lbs., blue eyes, into classic film, music, sunset walks at the beach, seeks intelligent, aware individual for mutually-fulfilling companionship. Please call Bruce at 213-338-9695. (24)

MEN'S PERSONALS—CO

Caribbean man wants tops with thick dicks. Box 18714, Denver, CO 80218. (29)

MEN'S PERSONALS—CT

Congenial WM ISO BM. Box 284, Hartford, CT 06141-0284. (TF)

MEN'S PERSONALS—DC

GWM seeks GBM hung huge. 202-483-3693. (31)

Single African-American male 26, 5'9" slender, light complexioned, masculine, healthy and intelligent and very conscious. Seeking friendship and correspondence with intelligent serious minded, independent masculine, light skin brother or Puerto Rican brother age 20-29. Let's write with photos & letters to Eric, Box 39215, Wash, D.C. 20016. Peace brother. (30)

GBM, straight-appearing, stocky, romantic, seeks gay white man. Must be financially successful, 25-40, straight-appearing, romantic and willing to develop a relationship with a victim of the current economic conditions. Will travel. Serious relpies only. Photo or phone number a must. Reply BLK Mailbox #127. (29)

MEN'S PERSONALS—GA

GBM 30 195 seeks J/O partner GBM 24-30. Box 54894, Atlanta, GA 30308. (31)

MEN'S PERSONALS—HI

You are top, hung, HIV+ and want to enjoy life. Loving home waiting for you in Hawaii. Write: Boxholder, Box 75704, Honolulu, HI 96836. (30)

MEN'S PERSONALS—IN

Incarcerated male to be released in under a year. Now that you know my bad side. I'm a white male, 27 years old, 5'6", 150 lbs., green eyes, with long brown hair. Wide variety of interests that range from weightlifting, bikes, traveling, nature, etc. Pretty down to earth guy who enjoys the easier things

in life. Honesty and loyalty are my two strongest points along with a good character and an easy laugh. I have an open mind, therefore, I am an easy person to converse with, and encourage meaningful conversation. I feel the sole purpose of life is to simply be happy and enjoy it as it comes. I'd like to hear from a mature gentlemen for friendship, companionship. Please write to M. Leonard, #875533, Box 30, Pendleton, IN 46064. I hope to hear from you soon. (E)

GWM wants relationship. Dennis Pitman, #882430, Box 30, Pendleton, IN 46064. (29)

Incarcerated in Indiana. GWM, 30, handsome, intelligent, out in one year, seeks sincere, serious lifemate. No games. Jeff Schrader #21140, Box 30, Pendleton, IN 46064. (29)

MEN'S PERSONALS—IL

GWM, 30s, blond, 5'9", 140 lbs., athletic, masculine, movies, travel, working out, etc. seeks athletic GBM or BiBM, under 40 years old, for safe, hot encounters. Top/bottom. 312-327-4895. (E)

GWM seeks GBM, 30s, in Chicago. 312-525-1267. (31)

White, 38, lonely, hot. J. Evans, 610 N. Henrietta, Effingham, IL 62401. (29)

MEN'S PERSONALS—LA

Gay black father seeks friendship/relationship with other gay fathers black or white or those who appreciate children who have reached adolescent age. I am a warm sensitive romantic in search of others who are family-oriented. Write Ly-Leh, Box 144, Evergreen, LA 71333. (29)

Black male, seeking bi-couples, TVs, TSs, drag queens, crossdressers, any race, any shape, ages 21 to 55, for friendship, kinky times, swinging. Am clean and discreet. Like all cultures. Motel meetings in Natchez, Miss., Vidalia, La., Ferriday, La. area. Call anytime day or night. 318-339-9269. C.B., Box 941, Jonesville, La. 71343. (29)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MD

Nice guy seeks same for friendship. This 50-year-old straight-acting WM is looking for a very masculine BM. Pleasant disposition, positive outlook and stability are important to me. Blue collar, thick endowment and trim build are pluses. Send detailed letter and photo of yourself to: BLK Mailbox #118 or call 301-779-6738. Pen pals welcome. Visitors to D.C. should call in advance of arrival. (29)

GBM, 24, 5'11", 165 lbs., in Washington, D.C. area, mature, very attractive and straight acting/appearance, enjoys playing baseball, basketball, tennis. I am seeking someone for possible friendship/something serious with GBM/BiBM, 25-43. Like I, you must be healthy, sexy, a little romantic, spiritually conscious, straightforward, discreet (not paranoid), comfortable with yourself/sexuality. Important that you have an awareness and concern of the black community and its struggles. Knowledge or willing to learn of your black culture/heritage a plus. Must be someone who is serious and realizes life and relationships consist of more than just sex, but of respect for yourself, me, our families and friends! Could I be asking too much? Let's make my first ad a success! No effeminates! BLK Mailbox #123 (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MA

WM, 53, seeks thin, romantic, clean black male in Boston. Call 617-524-0417. (30)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NJ

GBM, 20, seeks GWM for relationship. Box 1825, Rahway, NJ 07065. (E)

White male, 32, 160, brown hair, blue eyes, seeking young males for friends/sexual partners. Prefer cute, slim, smooth, cut, clean-shaven boyish Northern European, black and Southeast Asians. Like music, philosophy, science, health food. Am honest, sensitive, sincere. Live-in possible. No V.D., kinky/slutty types. Photo a must (preferably revealing)! Ron, Box 307, Irvington, NJ 07111-1940. (31)

GWM, 31, seeks GBM. R.G., Box 83, Hackensack, NJ 07602-0083. (29)

You: BGM. Me: Frustrated. Help! Box 130, Pennsauken, NJ 08110. (29)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NY

GWM, 43, BB, handsome, 195 lbs., hairy, versatile, 6', seeks lean, muscular, defined, sincere, honest, GBM with washboard abdominals. Photo necessary. Box 6A, 111 Montague St., Brooklyn, NY 11201. (E)

White male, middle age, enjoys the company and friendship of black males for dinner, theater and quiet times. John, Box 10042, Staten Island, NY 10310. (29)

White professional seeks black man. Smith, 118 Second St., Albany, 12210. (31)

White male, middle-aged, enjoys the company and friendship of black males, any age, for dinner, movies, quiet times. New York area. Respond to John, Box 10042, Staten Island, NY 10310. (29)

GWM, 42, 5'1", 125 lbs, brown hair, blue eyes, eyeglasses, considered cute. Cigarettes, wine, dancing, antiques, movies, rock, classical, quiet nights at home. Mature, responsible, warm, gentle, loving. Seek black male 40+, same attributes for friendship and possibly more. Rochester, N.Y. area. Serious replies only, send photo. BLK Mailbox #133 (29)

Very lonely black gent, retired professional, 65, silver-haired, medium brown skin, very short, stocky (5'2", 155), shy, submissive, servile, plain looking, conversationalist, Fr/Act only; eagerly seeks male (only) friends, guests (blacks, Hispanics, any race/age) who are clean, intelligent, dominant, large, macho, Fr/Pass., verbally aggressive (no drugs, S/M), discreet. 212-681-0179 evenings only 9-11:30 p.m. Dave R., 930 Grand Concourse #6B, Bronx, N.Y. 10451. No inmates. (E)

GBM, masculine, intelligent seeks GM. Box 400665, Brooklyn, NY 11240. (E)

Muscular, hard runner's build. Hot, sensual, HIV-, hung, versatile. Smooth, upbeat professional GWM, 44, 5'5", 128 lbs., enjoying fitness, outdoors, humor, arts, work, romance, travel, seeks warm-spirited, firm-bodied, hot-blooded, creative-minded, healthy-habited GBM, 30-45, any location, for fun/friendship/relationship. Rick, Box 4102, Utica, NY 13504. (E)

BiBM, 25, 5'9", hazel eyes, seeks black or Latino homeboy type, 18-26, in N.Y.C. area with athletic build for occasional, boy-to-boy fun. Must be disease-free. Send ph/ph. Let's do this. BLK Mailbox #119. (E)

Lean, muscular, GBM, top, 52, 6', 155, seeks fit, muscular, intelligent bottoms, into camping, hiking, nudism, travel, all ages/races. J. Tree, Box 161, S.I., NY 10304. (29)

GWM, continental, refined, personable, safe, hospitable, in his 50s, seeks hung BM for worship and devotion. 212-677-4159. (29)

Masculine GBM wanted by goodlooking GBM, 24, for friendship/fun. Send letter/picture to: Boxholder, Box 2122, New York 10008-2122. (E)

GWM, 48, goodlooking, masculine appearance, HIV-, caring, down to earth guy, seeks young, masculine BM, 18-30 for serious relationship, Box 547, Bridgehampton, NY 11932. (29)

Hung GBM, 50s, top, seeks hairy Hispanic bottom. BLK Mailbox #120. (E)

Are there any black and Latin tops out there? Haven't been able to find any. Prove you're not an endangered species! PR bottom would like to meet you. Age or dick size not important. Must look/act straight. I'm 40, 140 lbs., 5'11", slim. Write to: Louis, Box 642, Corona-Elmhurst, NY 11373-0642. Letter with photo and/or phone gets answered first. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NC

Gay white male, 41, straight-acting and ex-military, seeks black friends anywhere. Will answer all. Mike Thomas, Box 16911, Greensboro, NC 27416. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—OH

Black gay male seeks a mentally and physically stimulating relationship with gay male. You: healthy sense of humor, positive outlook, willing and capable of being equal and sharing mate, best friend, lover in a healthy, trusting, honest relationship. Me: attractive, 43 years, 5'7", muscular, 160 lbs., nonsmoker, drinker or drug user, with a masculine demeanor and variety of interests. Send letter and photo, Chas., Box 524, Cincinnati, OH 45201. (E)

GMW, 5'10", 155, 35, ISO GBM 18-30 for friendship and possibly more. Relocating to Dayton, Ohio area soon and need roommate/housemate. Respond with photo to Ron, Box 17474, Arlington, Virginia 22216. Let's talk. Trust me, you can't go wrong. Pen pals welcome. (E)

Listen up, fellas. GBM, 30, 6'1", 210 lbs., masculine build, college football jock, top, professional. I'm looking for a GBM, Carribean, South American, Oriental bottom, ages 25 to 45. No fatties. I'm HIV-, willing to travel to East Coast, Midwest, Southeast U.S.A. Looking for that special someone who is interested in dining, movies, jazz, fitness. A bottom who wants to be with someone who wants to make you happy. Please send letter, photos. Nude photo will get even faster reply. Mail to BLK Mailbox #110. I am very passionate. I like to give a warm massage and rub you all over. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—RI

Black male, 31, 190 lbs., stocky muscular build, seeks white males, 28-50, from Connecticut to Maine. I will be relocating to Newport, R.I. June or July 1991. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—SC

Hot blooded, masculine, black Southern buck, 25, with hot Southern comfort to offer. Interested in masculine GBM everywhere. I'm extremely fond of medium to large physique men, however, slender men are welcome also. Send your hottest letters and photos in exchange for mine. (No fats or fems, please.) Marc, Box 12143, Cola, SC 29211. (29)

Attractive, masculine, GBM, 25, would like to meet GBM from everywhere who could teach an inexperienced ex-prisoner of guilt about being gay. The joy of gay sex! Am very eager to learn. Send your hottest letters and nude photos. In return you'll get mine. M.T., Box 12143, Cola, South Carolina. No fems, please! (29)

MEN'S PERSONALS—TX

Uncuts fascinate you? Like to call, write, meet or play with uncuts? Correspondence-contact club for those into Uncuts. SASE to UM, Box 72455-BK, Corpus Christi, TX 78472. (31)

Houston: GWM, 52, 5'7½", HIV-, bottom, wants very large black men, horse hung, to enjoy this hungry ass. Send photo and address. BLK Mailbox #122. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—UT

GWM, 55, 5'8", 150, attractive Utah professional, seeks GBM or Latin athlete, non-smoker, non-drinker, non-drug user. If you fit this description and are seriously looking for a quality one-one relationship, call 801-364-2523. (32)

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CARTOONS
WORD UP
READ MY LIPS
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Vol. 3, No. 5, Whole No. 30, May 1991

Has Winnie Lost It?

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IT ONLY TAKES ABOUT 20 MINUTES

Word Up

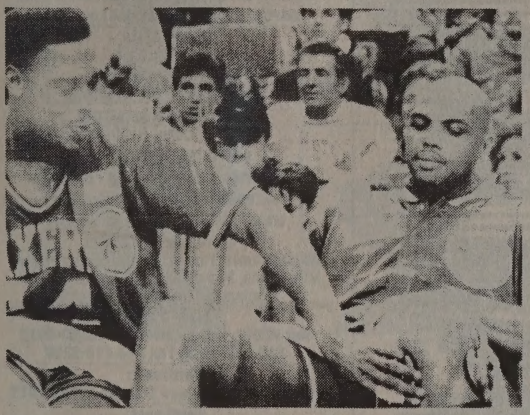
News of the Outrageous, the Amusing, the Pathetic and the Unexpected by Leon Miller

Backing Off, Coming Out

Five months after they refused to run an ad for the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum's National Conference, *Essence* has run a affirmative coming out story about one of its own staff.

Senior Health Editor Linda Villarosa and her mother, Clara, discuss in *Essence*'s words, "their journey of emotions from fear to disappointment and anger and finally toward peace and acceptance." The article, titled "Coming Out" appears in the magazine's 21st anniversary issue, dated May, which has a special mother-daughter theme.

Behind closed doors at *Essence*'s New York headquarters it is said colleagues are gasping fiercely, but accepting.



Chicago's non-gay black newspaper, the *Chicago Defender*, ran these two UPI photos with the following caption: "The 'Bump and Thump' duo of the Philadelphia 76ers, Rick Mahorn, left, and Charles Barkley, have a little fun on the bench as they await the start [of] the NBA playoffs this week."

Whitney Watch

Apparently Whitney Houston no longer says anything specific about her sexuality one way or another, preferring instead to speak about the controversy itself.

In the May *Ebony*, she says, "I don't make it my business to expose my relationships" and "You [the media] don't live with me every day! So how can you say that this is what I am or what I do?"

Japanese Firm Plays with AIDS

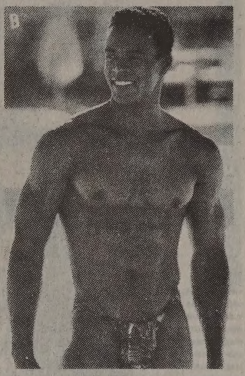
Yonezawa, a Japanese toy company, has decided to recall the unsold stock of a game called Bacteria Panic. Game players exchange sickness cards illustrated with images of hepatitis, ringworm, gonorrhea, rubella and influenza. The loser is the player left holding the AIDS card.

A spokesperson said the company "never meant to hurt the feelings of patients and their families" pointing out that the instructions warn, "Never play this game with the real victims of diseases."

International Black Male

If you check out the summer 1991 International Male catalog which features swimwear, shorts, briefs and beach clothes, you will see that 13 of the 216 images, or six tenths of one percent are black.

Low that may be, but it represents about a 1000 percent increase over previous catalogs which included one, two or maybe *no* black images.



The one who fit.

Wondering what prompted the change, I called the IM headquarters to find out.

"It was never a policy to overlook black models," Steve Miterko, the company's associate creative director, told BLK. "It was just that there weren't a lot that fit our criteria. There's a lot of things that our clothes sort of dictate."

I wanted to ask what *that* meant, but I let it pass.

"We know we've got a customer base in the black community," he went on, "so we felt it necessary to make an extra effort to try to find new guys. And in the last year, there have been a couple or three that really turned our heads."

That's a good start.

But the 13 images in the current catalog are actually of only one model, so apparently IM is still having a tough time finding black men who fit their criteria. Miterko said all their models are professionals "represented by reputable agents."

I'm heartened by IM's nascent efforts, but I think it's time to expand that list of agencies.

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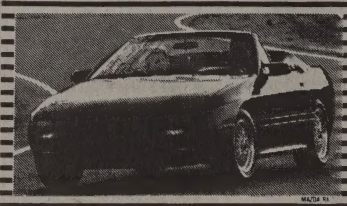

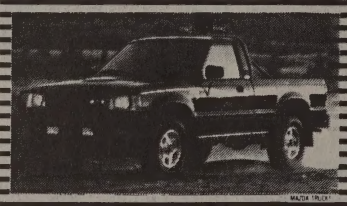

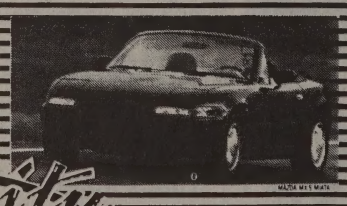

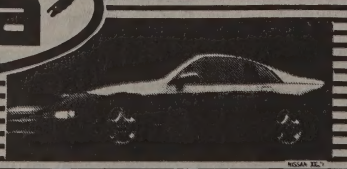

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May 1991

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ON THE COVER: Winnie Mandela. *Photo by Anna Zieminski.*

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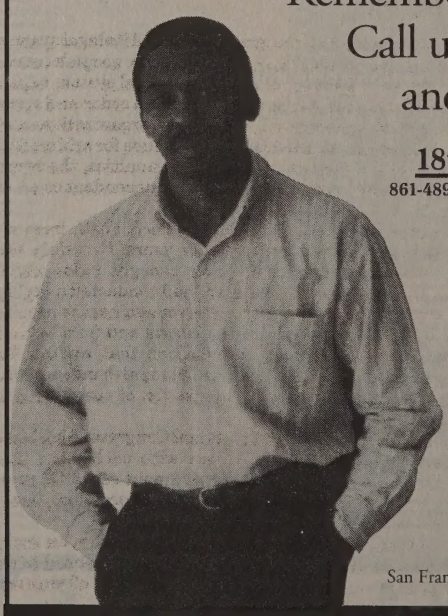

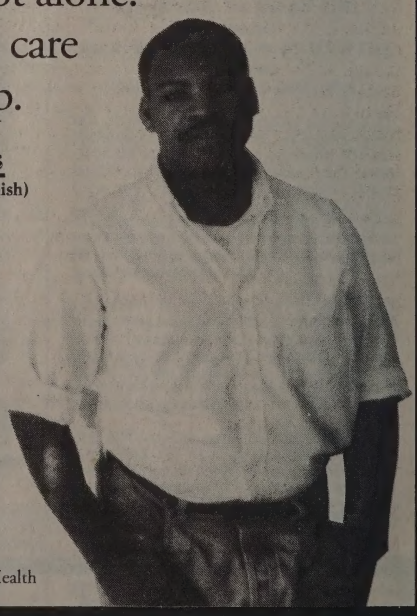

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Has Winnie Lost It?

The activities of Nelson Mandela's wife complicate lesbian and gay support

By Mark Haile

Racism, sexism and homophobia have met on the high plains of Witwatersrand of South Africa, a beautiful land that has seen only the ugly side of human behavior for many years. It's struggle has become a powerful vortex that has sucked in the emotions of people from halfway around the world. It has been a struggle with many losers and no victors. Among those losses are included the lives of at least two teenagers, not killed by a brutal dictatorship, nor in random acts of violence, but in cold-blooded acts of black-on-black terrorism. These two particular murders were to be, however, the deaths that unravelled any still-held presumptions about unity among various factions within South Africa, divide its supporters overseas, bring to light a long-running series of violent actions that Americans had not hitherto known of, and bring into question what kind of government might replace the white minority rulers still in power.

NEWS ANALYSIS

For many reasons, the current tragedy began 27 years ago with the imprisonment of Nelson Mandela. Mandela was captured with the assistance of American intelligence information during an intensive manhunt. His survival as a political prisoner made him a hero to people struggling for their self-determination all over the globe. This is the story, though, of Nelson's wife, Winnie Nomzamo Mandela, who became more than merely the woman waiting for his return. Parallel to the development of a worldwide feminist movement, she became—even more than Nelson—the symbol of achievement through determination, of an unquenchable thirst for justice, of an unstoppable movement for freedom. Her sacrifice made her an opera heroine in real life, the most suffering heterosexual woman of the century.

So anxious was the conservative government of white-run South Africa to discredit Winnie Mandela, that their countless efforts backfired, and made her into an even more impressive figure around the world. The South African government began to resemble some evil Disney character, while Winnie was approaching sainthood. It was Mrs. Mandela who was the first lady of South Africa to the rest of the world. That was the picture, at least from abroad, from the occasional newscasts and dispatches, as South Africa's struggles moved from among world conflicts slowly into center stage.

The domestic version of the story began to change somewhat in 1986 when Winnie formed a "football club" that was to never play a game of soccer in its five-year existence. Rather, the Mandela United Football Club became responsible for the protection of the Mother of the Nation. Its members accompanied Winnie everywhere she appeared, dressed in specially designed sweatsuits.

The Mother of the Struggle, as she was also known, was quite busy during Nelson's captivity. As a social worker, she saw to it that a clinic and an emergency relief center were established in Brandford, the town to which she was banished in the 1970s. Even though the government would continuously confine her movements, Winnie found a way to serve the cause.

It endeared Winnie to the world even more, that despite the constant police harassment, trumped-up arrests, raids, even house arrest, she still maintained a higher and higher public profile. Possibly she was an officer with a guerrilla group, Umkonto We Sizwe, at the very least providing a "Halfway House" for Umkonto guerillas slipping back into the Soweta township.

Said an unidentified guerrilla, "Winnie has a special role in the MK."

Such activity has especially endeared Winnie to the militant youth of South Africa's townships. It was at this time, when she formed her "football club," that she declared, "Together hand-in-hand with our boxes of matches and our necklaces we shall liberate this country." This was a direct reference to the practice of taking suspected informers and putting an automobile tire filled with gasoline around their head, then setting it afire.

Without question, the government and its legal system were biased against blacks. In the townships, people's courts had sprung up in 1984 as an alternative legal system began to develop in reaction to the need to provide order and some semblance of self-government. While tribal organizations and township associations provided opportunities for arbitration and settlement of disputes in many communities, the home of Winnie Mandela became a powerful, independent court of its own.

In a violent society such as South Africa, death from all sides has been a part of daily life for years. Certainly the government police, who have never thought twice about shooting and hosing school children, had conducted a highly visible and sanctioned campaign of terror against the people. They had the added weight of the courts and jails behind them: under the emergency regulations that existed for years, men, women, and children could languish indeterminably while waiting for even an accusation of committing a crime, much less a trial date.

Then there was the African National Congress (ANC) and tribal factions all seemingly at war with each other and among themselves. Even as the government eased its campaign of terror in the wake of international pressure, internecine violence continued, and intensified.

The violence around the Mother of the Nation, as such, was not an aberration, but the norm. It was dispensed in an orderly fashion as opposed to the chaotic form of violence that occurred outside Winnie's gate.

People began to come from all over Soweto to the gates of the Mandela home, seeking an audience. What had started as the underground organizing of anti-government activities in the townships began to evolve into an intelligence-gathering and judgement-dispensing activity. A senior member of the ANC-aligned Soweto Civil Association noted, "She has always operated outside of the structures of the mass democratic movement. She was accountable to no one, and this was the problem."

First it was the accusations that people were working for the police. Then came domestic quarrels between husbands and wives, petty thefts, and the normal disputes of day to day urban living. The members of Winnie's "football club" would take all the information down in a big book and show it to Winnie. Winnie would decide if the accused should be brought—by force—to her home to be disciplined.

"The punishment for anti-social behavior was normally lashes," said Lerothodi Ikaneng, one of the original "football club" members. Ikaneng was stabbed in the throat by Jerry Richardson, Winnie's chief bodyguard, when he refused to take part in some of the "club's" activities. "For more serious crimes like car thefts, then it was lashes, kicks and punches. We would all take part, taking it in turns. I lost count of how many beatings there were." Members of the club were themselves subject to severe beatings. They, too, were under virtual house arrest, forced to report their whereabouts at all times or face punishment. "Mrs. Mandela would sometimes take part in these beatings," said Ikaneng, adding that Winnie always knew what discipline was to be meted out even when she was not present herself.

Dudu Chilli, member of the Orlando West ANC branch and a well-known women's movement organizer, said of Winnie, "People came to consult Winnie with their problems, just like they came to consult me, but Winnie's form of social

Signs said "No Justice Under an Unjust Government" but also "No Homosex" and "Homosex Is Not in Black Culture."

counseling was to order the assault of those whom she considered to be offenders. Comrades would come to stay in her house because they knew her doors were open. But once they found out what was going on, they would run away."

An attempt was made to recruit Chilli's two sons into the "football club." "I absolutely refused to allow my boys to join," said Chilli. "Why did Winnie need bodyguards? None of the other leaders' wives had bodyguards. Albertina Sisulu certainly didn't have bodyguards. I knew there was something wrong. Winnie was using the boys to do her dirty work."

Members of the "football club" were rumored to have killed a former beauty queen. Then came a double murder in a Soweto "Shebeen," where it was later found that Winnie's car was used and the murder weapon found hidden in her home.

Then in 1988, students from Daliwonga razed the Mandela home to the ground, claiming that the "football club" had raped a local girl.

Neighbors warned Chilli that her home was being watched. Word was sent that the "football club" had met to plan the family's "elimination."

"Sibusiso," Dudu Chilli's son, she recounted, "was told to flee, but he didn't. He said, 'If I start running from Winnie Mandela now, when will I stop?'"

Shortly after, a fight broke out between Sibusiso and Maxwell Madondo, who with a youth called "Killer," had been assigned to "dump" the Chilli family. Madondo was killed during the fight. Allegedly, Winnie Mandela drove up in her mini-bus, inspected the body, then drove away.

Dudu Chilli, her sons, and four others were arrested for Madondo's murder. While they were in custody, the "football club" retaliated.

On Feb. 22, Dudu Chilli's sister-in-law, Msomi, saw several people enter Chilli's home, where Msomi's 13 year old daughter, Finky, was playing. Msomi sent her son to see what was going on, who returned shouting, "Oh Mummy, I think Winnie Mandela's boys are at Auntie's house." As Msomi then told the BBC, "the shots went off—boom, boom, boom—and then something exploded. 'You are killing my kids in there'," she had screamed.

Charles Zwane, a member of Winnie Mandela's "football club," was arrested, tried and found guilty for Finky Msomi's murder and sentenced to death.

The Chillis themselves were acquitted or given suspended sentences with Sibusiso Chilli receiving a one year jail term.

The light sentences came from the revelation that a "decision was made to kill" that had come from a meeting chaired by Winnie Mandela herself.

Until the revelations of mayhem and violence surrounding Winnie Mandela—and despite the internal tensions, mistrust and rhetoric that kept occurring as the country worked to prepare itself for eventual self rule—the general outlook for lesbians and gay men in South Africa's future had seemed bright. The ANC had been inclusive of lesbian and gay rights in the proposed new constitution for South Africa; discussions across the country have been raising peoples' consciousness and yielding promising results. Mandela herself, on Jan. 27, 1991, stated "...discrimination arises from a number of commonly held assumptions...as a result, much discrimination gets unrecognized or is regarded as natural or becomes invisible through the existing laws... These rules and customs giving some people positions of power over others include sexist, heterosexist and racist assumptions..."

Winnie Mandela's true feelings about homosexuality beyond political theory came into question, however, after the events of Dec. 29, 1988.

Four young men, Kenneth Kgase, Thabiso Barend Mono, Gabriel Mekgwe and James "Stompie" Moeketsi Seipei, were abducted from a Methodist youth hostel in Soweto run by the Rev. Paul Verryn. The ages of the young men ranged from 14 to 31.

Charging that Verryn was running a training center for homosexuals, Jerry Richardson, Mandela's head bodyguard, brought them to Mandela's home in Winnie's minivan. As two of the three survivors testified at the trial, not only was "Mummy" present for the beatings, but she had personally participated. Mrs. Mandela whipped them ironically with a *sjambok*, a multicolored studded cat-o-nine-tails used by the South African police on blacks. She also used her bare fists, yelled that they were "not fit to be alive," hitting them with and throwing bottles at them, and dancing a jig with glee as she supervised their beating by members of the "football club." A few days later, Stompie was found with his throat slit.

It was never denied that the beatings took place and in the Mandela home. Jerry Richardson had already been found guilty of Stompie's murder as the United States welcomed Nelson and Winnie Mandela to New York with a hero's ticker tape parade.

Not until February, as talks between the ANC and the government reached a crisis point, did the state finally

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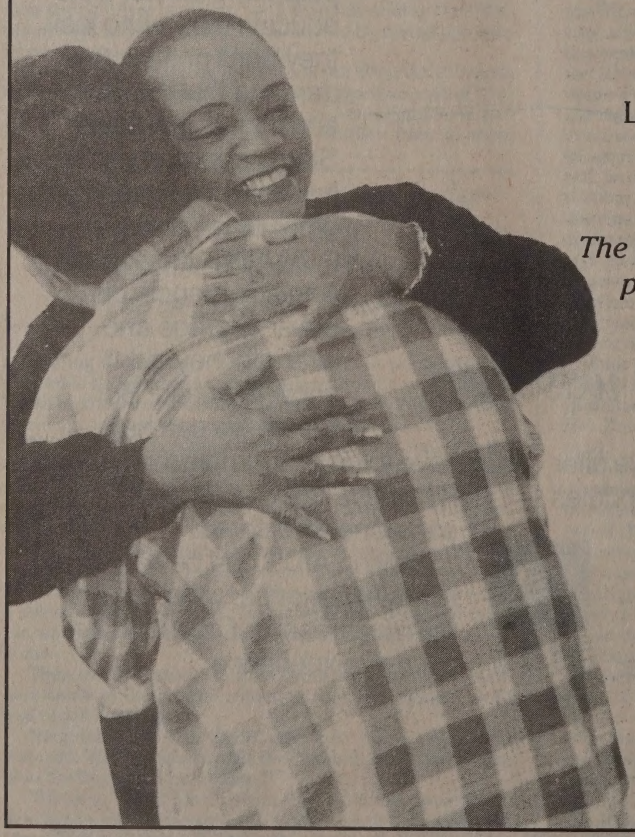

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L.A. SHANTI

charge Winnie Mandela with four counts each of kidnapping and assault with intent to commit grievous bodily harm. Not until Nelson Mandela decried the "Iron Fist" program—in fact, the very next day—did the state use their trump card and seek to charge Mrs. Mandela.

"Whether or not Mrs. Mandela is guilty," said an ANC lawyer, "she is being used by the State to try the whole liberation movement."

The whole context of the kidnapping and beatings took a different turn with Mrs. Mandela's trial, under the direction of defense lawyer George Bizos. A widely respected liberal who had also worked to free gay anti-apartheid activist Simon Nkoli, the defense attempted to show that Mrs. Mandela genuinely believed the youths were at risk from Verryn. The youths steadfastly denied, and it was not proved, that there was any sexual misconduct at the hostel. At most, Verryn was accused of tickling one of the young men on occasion.

In a curious statement, Bizos asked in court, "taking away the assaults, how serious was this kidnapping? What has she really done?" Bizos claimed that it was at best a technical kidnapping, in that there was no use of force nor extortion intended, and in that Mrs. Mandela's role in the entire incident had been negligible, and in the beatings had been non-existent.

"Take my bus, take them [the youths] and let them stay at the back of my house," Bizos claimed were Winnie's instructions to the "football club" and the extent of her involvement in the incident.

Chief State Prosecutor Jan Swanpoel pointed out in response that as Mrs. Mandela held authority over the others involved in the beatings, she has more "moral blame-worthiness."

Supporters outside the courthouse carried such signs as "We Love You Winnie" and "No Justice Under an Unjust Government," but also carried inflammatory signs such as "No Homosex" and "Homosex Is Not in Black Culture."

After repeated attempts to communicate with defense attorneys during the trial about the homophobic direction it had employed, the Gay and Lesbian Organization of the Witwatersrand (GLOW) wrote an open letter to the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the African National Congress. The letter of protest was published in a paid advertisement in the prestigious *Weekly Mail*.

It became clear that the Mandela defense was willing to exploit both black and white African strains of misunderstandings of homosexuality in the case, deliberately confusing homosexuality with sexual abuse, and obscuring the real issues of the trial.

In their open letter, GLOW stated, "...It is alarming that the NEC has failed to respond to the homophobia that has arisen both within and outside this court as a result of the trial."

In addition to mentioning the signs carried by ANC supporters and the defense tactic equating homosexuality to sexual abuse, the GLOW executive committee charged, "The defense is using allegations of homosexual activity in an attempt to distract from the real issues in the trial, namely the alleged kidnapping of, and assault on, four young men. We are outraged that the accused believe that allegations of homosexuality can be used in an attempt to justify the removal of the complainants from the manse. In short, we feel that the defense is attempting to capitalize on conventional and reactionary prejudices against homosexuals.

"This is particularly disturbing as the defense is being raised by the head of the ANC's Department of Social Welfare. The line of defense is irreconcilable with basic principles outlined in the ANC's proposed Bill of Rights [Article 7, Paragraph 2: Discrimination on the grounds of gender, single parenthood, legitimacy of birth or sexual orientation shall be unlawful.].

"The ANC's failure to respond to the above raises doubts regarding its stated commitment to the recognition of lesbian and gay rights. We therefore demand that the NEC states clearly and unequivocally its position on the rights of lesbians and gay men."

George Bizos is thought of as "South Africa's most distinguished defender of human rights in the field of law." His reputation was established from his involvement as far back as the Rivonia trial of 1963, the trial of Braam Fischer, and the Delmas treason trial where he defended Simon Nkoli.

Of his relationship with Bizos, Nkoli said, "When I was on trial, Mr. Bizos was always very supportive of my rights as a gay person. He won my respect. It is very sad for me to see him using the gay issue in this trial. We have kept quiet for too long. It is time for us to make our feelings known."

At one point in the trial, Bizos had cross-examined Kenneth Kgase relentlessly, demanding him to give his opinion of homosexuality. Kgase said he was not able to judge the matter. Had he answered either positively or negatively, it would have provided a springboard for even more interrogation that would have led further and further from the actual incidents.

Ironically, in a letter to the *Weekly Mail*, one reader said, "It is surprising that GLOW should take issue with the very person who has championed the battle against gender discrimination in South Africa. In fact, GLOW should be expressing appreciation of the appointment to the Welfare portfolio of someone competent, progressive and courageous enough to champion their cause."

Among the few voices speaking out for common sense, one Cape Town writer said, "Aren't we also trying to build a human rights culture under the leadership of the ANC? Can assault, kidnapping and killing ever be justified to force somebody to confess to something? If we feel that someone has done something wrong, surely we try to convince them by reasoning, not brute force? Or is the use of violence okay because the 'Mother of the Nation' is accused of doing it in the name of the struggle?

"Would this trial be anything other than a straight

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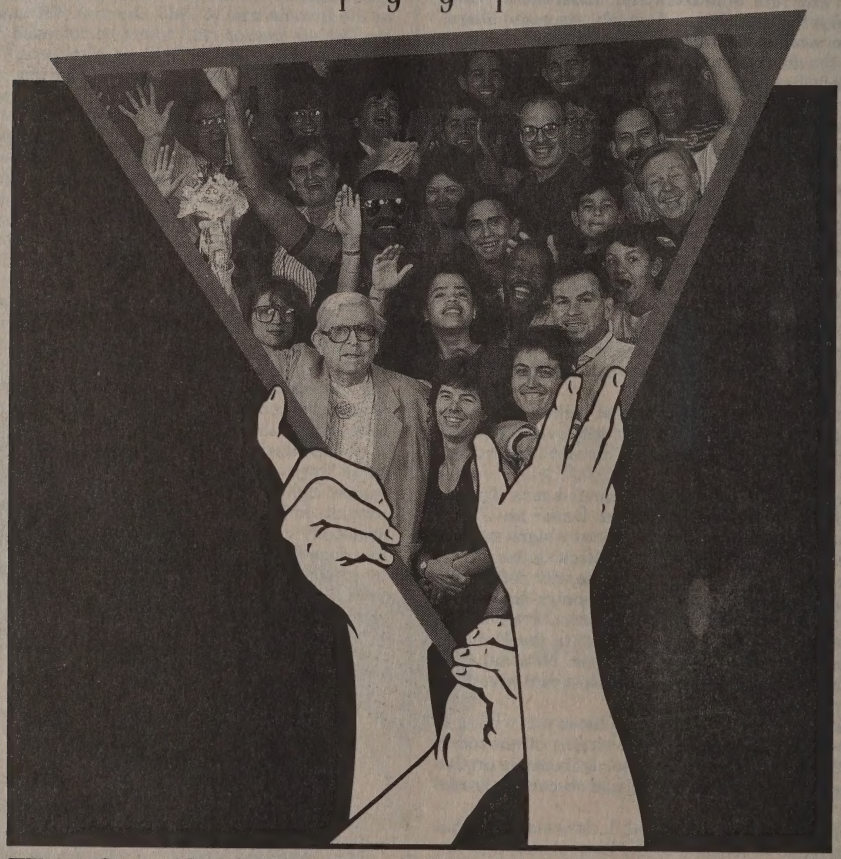

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criminal trial if Winnie Mandela was not involved? Should millions of rands of struggle money be used to fill the pockets of the lawyers defending Winnie and the others? We are crying out to know what the ANC leadership really thinks—or are they deafeningly silent about the attack on gay people in this trial because everyone is too scared or embarrassed to be seen as criticizing Winnie?"

Mrs. Mandela and Xoliswa Falati were found guilty of kidnapping and assault charges with Mrs. Mandela's driver, John Morgan, found guilty on charges of kidnapping.

In sentencing Mrs. Mandela, Judge Michael Stegmann said Mrs. Mandela was "a cold, calm, and deliberate liar," who planned the kidnapping as part of a plot to oust the influential and highly respected Rev. Verryn from the township.

Winnie Mandela was sentenced to six years in jail for her participation in the planning of the kidnapping and as an accessory after the fact to their beatings. The change in her standing in South Africa was symbolized by her failure to win the presidency of the ANC's women's league, where the victor, Gertrude Shope, received nearly twice as many votes as Mrs. Mandela.

Nelson Mandela stood by his wife, telling reporters "My faith in her is fully vindicated. I have never believed that she was guilty of assaulting anyone. I believe that she did not know of any assaults."

Application for appeals have been filed. Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu had noted that the affair was a "sad occasion for us, when someone who has had such a distinguished record in the struggle has to have this happen to them. But, it is important also to say that the movement is greater than any one single individual."

Sadly, the affair does not end with the trial. Gabriel Mekgwe was abducted again on February 10 as the trial began, from the same hostel. His fate remains unknown.

Most lesbian and gay African-Americans will only learn of those developments in South Africa that the American media choose to show on television and print in magazines and newspapers. It is still difficult for most Americans born in the fifties or later to have a feel for the day-to-day realities of black South Africans.

As lesbians and gay men, however, each person can think back to their own coming-out experiences, and wonder for themselves what they would have missed had they had their throat slit at the age of 14.

The American civil rights movement is full of the history of such tragedies, but nowhere in the history of the American struggle of African-Americans is there an account of where black America officially sanctioned the murders of innocent young blacks by other blacks "for their own good." As anti-aparthied activists in America have tried to interpret the events in South Africa for themselves, important questions have arisen about all struggles for self-determination. Is any leader that far above the law? Is any leader, if only in the eyes of black America, worth being above the law? Would black America be that willing to give a leader that much power?

South Africa moves closer every day to becoming an American-styled democracy, with a one-person, one-vote concept, and with a constitution that upholds the rights of lesbians and gay men, something not even found in the United States.

The world for now can only watch, helping as they can through sanctions and denial of assistance to the outgoing oligarchy, and hope that once in power, the new leaders of the democratic movement will be as successful in practicing democracy as in achieving it.

Mark Gevisser provided invaluable research assistance for this article.

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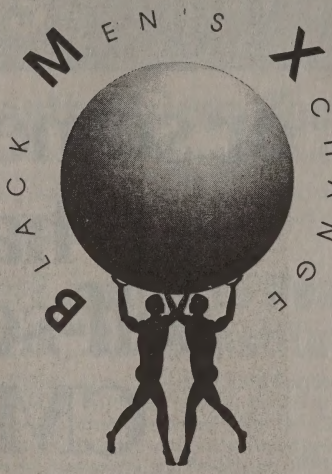

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BLK NEWS

Agency Ignores Boycott; Plans South African Tour

By Mark Haile

LONG BEACH—Royal Tours and Travel, a travel agency targeted to the lesbian and gay community, has planned a November 1991 trip to South Africa in defiance of the international economic boycott against that country.

The International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA), the most prominent worldwide lesbian and gay organization, which includes chapter members in the U.S. as well as South Africa, has called on lesbians and gay men to support the African National Congress's request for economic isolation from the world community until the end of apartheid.

Royal's two-week South Africa tour includes a three-day safari, one day on the 'Blue Train,' and visits to the cities of Johannesburg, Durban, Oudyshoorn and Cape Town.

Cary Alan Johnson, a member of the Africa Working Group of the New York's Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center, which itself is a chapter member of the ILGA, contacted Johnny Hellesmark, proprietor of Royal Tours and Travel, suggesting that the tour be canceled.

"Recent events in South Africa may be misleading," Johnson wrote to Hellesmark. "Most observers are clear that national reform has not attained the critical mass which will ensure the 'irreversibility' of the dismantling of apartheid. Progressive South Africans like Nelson Mandela and Bishop Desmond Tutu have urged that the sanctions not be lifted. Heroically, black South Africans are willing to continue enduring the effects of sanctions in order to win their freedoms."

Johnson explained that while a few blacks might benefit in the short term with a few dollars, a greater harm would be done by supporting the perpetuation of apartheid.

But Hellesmark said he plans to go ahead with the tour if sufficient travelers respond to his advertising. He said the tour was being put on for the first time because of requests in the gay community among his clientele. "This is my first tour to Africa," he told BLK, "except for Morocco and Egypt. But I consider them in my brain to be more European. But they are, of course, part of Africa."

"I finally put it on and then I get this letter from New York. Very disturbing. It's just from one person, I guess," he added, apparently not understanding that Johnson was speaking on behalf of a number of organizations representing thousands of people.

Offering his assessment of the effect of sanctions, Hellesmark said, "It hurts the black people of South Africa for them not to get the tourist dollar. Europe has gone back trading again, and I'm sure it's just a matter of time before the U.S. will start coming back, too."

Johnson closed his letter with a plea for cancellation, saying, "in this way, Royal Tours's motto, 'for men and women of discriminating taste,' will cease to be the bitter parody it currently represents."

"Being a Norwegian guy, born and raised in Norway, we were raised where we have no prejudice in our head," Hellesmark told BLK. "I don't know if you know the Scandinavian people at all, but we are much different than the rest of the Europeans. We have absolutely no prejudice. I didn't even know the word before I came to this country and until I saw it here. But I never took after the American people that way. My personal lawyer is black. I have a lot of black clientele that come on my tours."

Hellesmark noted "it was actually just a test, I might not even take a tour to Africa this year, depending on how many people are interested."

Wilbert Jordan to Head New L.A. AIDS Institute

LOS ANGELES—At the November, 1990 Faculty Council Meeting, Dr. Henry Williams, interim president and Dr. Lewis King, acting dean announced that the Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science has appointed Dr. Wilbert C. Jordan to organize and develop an AIDS Institute at the facility. This will be a center for clinical research, teaching, treatment, early intervention, epidemiology and support services.

The purposes of the Institute, they say, are to develop a comprehensive integrated system for awareness, education, early intervention and treatment; to develop a program rigorous enough stand as an AIDS clinical trial unit; to provide a level of care for HIV-infected persons and patients with AIDS comparable to any system in the county; and to be a vanguard for treatment and research.

Dr. Jordan says the new center will be called the South Central AIDS Institute and his goal is to combine the activities at the Medical School with those like the Minority AIDS Project in a way that there will be satellite clinics and programs strategically located throughout the south central area.

"Eventually I hope to have a program situated in Inglewood and Compton, as well as the LaBrea/Jefferson area and of course here at the Medical Center. I am talking with Pastor Johnson and Dr. Ward at Shabach [Christian Fellowship Interdenominational Church] in hopes of developing the Morningside Hospital into a major center." Shabach now owns the property.

"I want to be able to have for whatever we define to be South Central a real regional system where we can have whatever is happening at MAP the common link to King to the center should be there and vice versa," Jordan told BLK. "At this point it's still not as good as it should be and it needs to be better, and this is what I'm hoping that this will make it better.

"That is MAP is having a early treatment program and someone tests positive than they can be referred to our clinic at King or somewhere else," he went on, "but the clinic at King is standing there for those who have no other place to go to be referred to. They just don't be left in limbo. If we have enough people at some point and they need to be on a support system and they are on the west side of town we will refer them automatically to the program at MAP."

"It will be a right and left hand knowing what each other is going rather than two separate things going on as people often duplicating services," he added.

The Institute intended to network with the local hospitals in order to provide care to patients near their homes.

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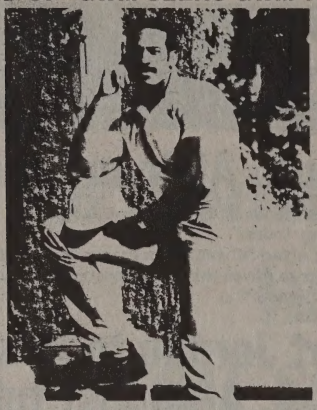

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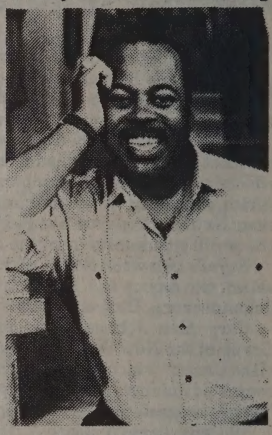
Tabloid Outs TV Sitcom Star Reggie VelJohnson

By Alan Smithee

LOS ANGELES—Reginald VelJohnson, who stars as Chicago cop Carl Winslow in the top-rated television show *Family Matters*, is gay according to a story in the *Globe*. Crediting an anonymous source referred to as an "insider," the tabloid claims VelJohnson, 38, has dated a number of young men.



Reginald VelJohnson

"Reggie doesn't really have one steady boyfriend," the insider said in the *Globe*. "He sees a number of different guys, but they all have certain things in common—they're all young, good-looking, well-built and black," claims the close pal. "Most of them are in their early 20s, and they all look like they work out with weights. They're definitely not the type of guy you pick up on Sunset Blvd. In fact, they look like well-to-do college students or yuppies."

Sunset Blvd. is not known as a location where gay men meet.

Best known for his role as the sympathetic policeman in the hit feature films *Die Hard* and *Die Hard 2*, VelJohnson has also co-starred in the box-office hit films *Crocodile Dundee, Ghostbusters, Cotton Club* and *Turner and Hooch*. He was also featured in *Glory Days, Magic Sticks, Beer, Armed and Dangerous* and *Wolfen*.

He began his performing career as a preteen when his parents enrolled him in a special acting school in his native Queens, N.Y. VelJohnson went on to complete his bachelor of arts degree in theater at New York University and study with such famed acting coaches as Lloyd Richards and Peter Kaas.

He began his career on the stage starring in such off-Broadway productions as *Mondongo, When Hell Freezes Over I'll Skate* and *Staggerlee*. On Broadway, he starred in *Honky Tonk Nights, Innocent Black, But Never Jam Today, Bojangles* and *A Whole New Ballgame*. On television VelJohnson is a recurring regular on the comedy series *Perfect Strangers* and has guest starred on such shows as *227* and *The Equalizer* as well as starring in the daytime drama, *Another World*.

Despite his string of movie and theater credits, it's his current role as the most popular prime-time pop since Bill Cosby that has brought him instant stardom.

Despite his openness away from the set, none of his television family knew his lifestyle said the anonymous insider. "Reggie'd never dream of flaunting his homosexuality on the set—especially a set so filled with children as *Family Matters*," the source said.

Lori DeWaal at the Garrett Company, VelJohnson's publicist, told BLK that, as a matter of policy, the firm doesn't comment on stories that appear in the tabloids. She refused even to provide the actor's official biography, a typical publicist function.

Recently, VelJohnson was honored as alumnus of the year by Benjamin N. Cardozo High School.

Bookstore in Chicago Rejects Black Gay Magazine

By Mark Haile

CHICAGO—"Man, I can't touch that!" said bookstore owner Dennis Gordon to Robert T. Ford, publisher of *Thing* magazine, when Ford was dropping off copies of his spring issue at Osiris Bookstore on Chicago's North Broadway.

The store, previously one of two Afrocentric bookstores in Chicago owned by Desirée Sanders, was sold recently to Dennis Gordon. Ford says that when he came in last April to leave copies of his new issue and pick up payment for the previous one, a heated discussion ensued before Gordon ordered him out of the store. The Osiris Bookstore, located at 3748 N. Broadway, is in the heart of one of Chicago's main gay neighborhoods.

"Basically I was interested in educating the youth around home. I didn't want anything that would confuse them at any point in their life, and around here every store on the block carries that magazine so I don't even realize why there has to be a big stink about one store. I mean there are stores on this block and the next block that carry the magazine... Basically I deal with literature, fiction, non-fiction. I don't have any magazines. I don't have *Ebony* or *Jet* in here, except someone gave me some rap magazines," said Gordon.

Gordon denied any homophobic intent on his part, telling BLK, "to me that's not an issue. I'm not a homophobic person," although as Ford recounted the incident, "indeed, his hands recoiled from the newsprint as if effeminacy or HIV could seep from the fibers."

Gordon said, "If I had a problem with him being gay, I would have said something different than just, 'get out.' I probably maybe would have called him names or something like that."

Despite the fact that his stock of *Thing*, a unique Chicago-based black alternative arts "zine" that is nationally recognized, had completely sold out, Gordon expressed reservations about stocking it in his store.

"I had bad images of the magazine to start with. I thought it was a pornographic magazine. I didn't want to have any pornographic magazines in here. I didn't want to have anything that might confuse anybody... High school kids come here and college kids come here and young kids come here. I have children's books, you know, pictures for babies... It's not up to me to teach sex education to anybody."

The issue of *Thing* that Gordon referred to as "pornographic" has a photograph of model Pam Johnson's head made up as a homage to Josephine Baker, and contains no pornography. Ford tried to show Gordon that, in fact, there was an important essay by Essex Hemphill on the work and homophobia of Dr. Frances Cress Welsing, whose books are carried by Osiris.

Ford also pointed out that Osiris carried books by James Baldwin, Alice Walker, Langston Hughes, and other black gay writers.

Gordon admitted to BLK, "I have James Baldwin. I know that he was gay or whatever. I know that he had a strange..." and with that Gordon let his voice trail off, without finishing his thought. When he composed himself, he continued saying, "No, because it's not the same. It doesn't show men in a similar way. I haven't read a book by him yet on homosexuality."

Gordon finished by saying, "It seems I'm here for a special purpose and I want to do that which I'm here for. I'm not hurting the gay community by not having this magazine here because like I said it's [in] stores all over that sell the same magazine. I have a responsbility not only to educate—basically to make strong men. I'm not saying that homosexuality wouldn't make strong men but like it could confuse somebody. It could confuse a lot of people who are not ready for it and I basically want to deal with straight novels."

Men of All Colors Together/Chicago co-chairs Les Everett and Bob Schwartz announced their support for Robert Ford, affirming "the important contribution made by *Thing* magazine to proclaiming the place of African-American lesbians and gay men." MACT/Chicago political action chair Wendell Reid met with the executive committee to plan various responses to the incident.

As a result, letters of protest from MACT/Chicago and individual members have gone out to Osiris Bookstore, and requests have been made for the store to resume stocking *Thing* magazine.

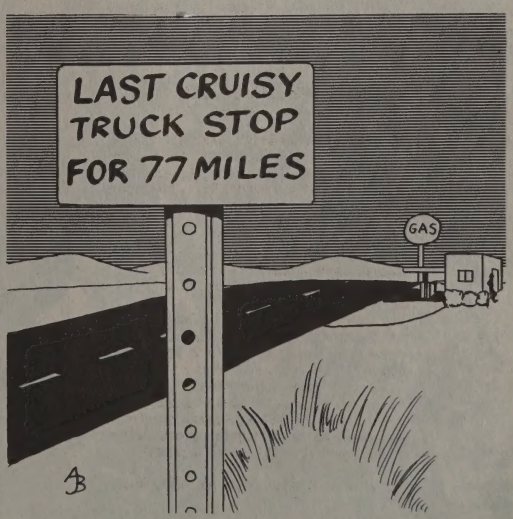
Said Robert Ford, *"Thing* is a black-owned, operated, and targeted publication, yet we are not welcomed into a bookstore that was ostensibly for black people due to unchanged homophobia in the black community. Much of the black 'left' sees black gays and lesbians as part of the problem. The general invisibility of black gays and lesbians allows that attitude to continue, which is why black and gay forums like *Thing* must exist."

Carter Courts Gay Vote

ST. LOUIS—Paula Carter has made a name for herself campaigning throughout the St. Louis lesbian and gay community in her bid for the presidency of the Board of Aldermen. The African-American state representative from the northside of St. Louis has spoken out in favor of the Hate Crimes Statistics Bill, made appearances at AIDS fundraisers and appointed gay activist Tim Cusick as her 17th Ward coordinator.

The only real opposition is from incumbent Tom Villa, as whoever wins the March 5 primary will not have to worry about a Republican challenger in this heavily Democratic and racially polarized election.

The lesbian and gay votes could swing the election for Carter. She is highly regarded as one of the few politicians in St. Louis not afraid to associate openly with the lesbian and gay community.



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Black Lesbian Joins San Diego City Commission

SAN DIEGO—Dr. Cynthia Lawrence-Wallace has been appointed to the San Diego County Human Relations Commission by County Supervisor Leon Williams. Dr. Lawrence-Wallace, 53, joins Vicky Butcher as the second woman of African descent and Charles McKain as the second openly gay person on the 15-member panel.

Cynthia Lawrence-Wallace

A professor of teacher education at the University of California, San Diego, she has been active in issues of equity education and has been the primary force behind cultural inclusion in education for decades.

She was involved in the civil rights movement in the late 1950s and the 1960s while in college in the East, and notes that "being black, being a woman, being a single parent...in this society sets you up for constant discrimination. It can damage your very being. I tended to become involved so as to improve life for myself and for others, too. I am especially interested in children, that their lives are not irreparably damaged by prejudice and discrimination."

Dr. Lawrence-Wallace describes herself as a "human rights advocate who works for whatever issue will provide people their rights. I work with the California state Department of Education to provide culturally inclusive educational materials for our teachers, as well as giving workshops on multi-cultural education and the elimination of racism. It is my responsibility to do whatever I can to eliminate any kind of discrimination, and especially to provide equal access to education and all of our social benefits."

She is also organizer and director of the San Diego Womens Chorus.

We sing music that speaks to human rights, peace, and cultural understanding. We are a diverse group of women, many of whom are lesbian. We want to celebrate who we are, whatever our cultural background, political persuasion, or sexual orientation," she says. It's important to me that I involve myself and use my talents and skills in organizations of liberation."

Dr. Lawrence-Wallace was recently honored with the Susan B. Anthony Award by the San Diego Chapter of the National Organization for Women. The award recognized her work in the community and her representation of women in teaching and in the Womens Chorus and the Human Relations Commission.

She recalls that her initial lesbian activist experience came as she helped organize the lesbian and Gay Men's Community Center, and later involved in organizing the club's Women's Caucus and in the initial stages of Blood Sisters, the program which supports gay men with AIDS by creating a special account of blood at the San Diego Blood Bank. "I gained a lot of political savvy by working with the San Diego Democratic Club," said Dr. Lawrence-Wallace.

Both openly gay commissioners, Dr. Lawrence-Wallace and McKain, are members of the San Diego Democratic Club. McKain was appointed by Williams in 1990.

State Quits Case Against Lonnie Hill, Gay Sex Film

By Rex Wockner

CHICAGO—The Cook County State's Attorney's office announced March 14 that it is dropping the obscenity case against Bijou Theatre manager Lonnie Hill and the gay sex film *More of a Man*. Hill, who is black, had spent 12 hours in jail before being released on $100 bond.

A formal "motion to strike with leave to reinstate" will be filed at the next scheduled court appearance. The motion leaves the door open for renewed action at a later date, but officials know that such a move is unlikely.

A state's attorney spokesman hinted that this method of disposing of the case was chosen to save face after his office realized that *More of a Man*'s relatively heavy dose of gay politics probably cuts a wide path around the state obscenity statue.

More of a Man has a story line, an activist consciousness (with a subplot involving ACT-UP), a pro-coming-out bias (including gay pride parade footage), and safe-sex demonstrations.

"There is a plot to this film, there are some contemporary issues in this film. We're concerned about first Amendment issues and artistic expression."

Knott also seemed concerned about the possibility of losing a case that possessed all the ingredients necessary to whip up a major media event. The decision to drop the charge was made by new first Assistant State's Attorney Ken Gillis and relayed to the State's Attorney's Task Force on Lesbian and Gay Issues at a March 13 meeting, Knott said.

More of a Man was confiscated from the Bijou on Valentines's Day by officers of the Chicago Police Vice Control Division.

Asked if networking exists between the state's attorney and the vice squad to discourage the police from nabbing non-obscene films in the future, Knott said, "It's a sensitive issue whether we dictate to them what you do and don't do, but we have raised the issue that we should work close together. We want to educate our state's attorneys too."

The announced dismissal of the case followed a March 7 rejection by Bijou lawyers of an offer of "court supervision" to settle the case.

The Bijou was keen on staging a high-profile trial to prove that run-of-the-mill sex films, especially those with overt political content, are not obscene under Illinois law.

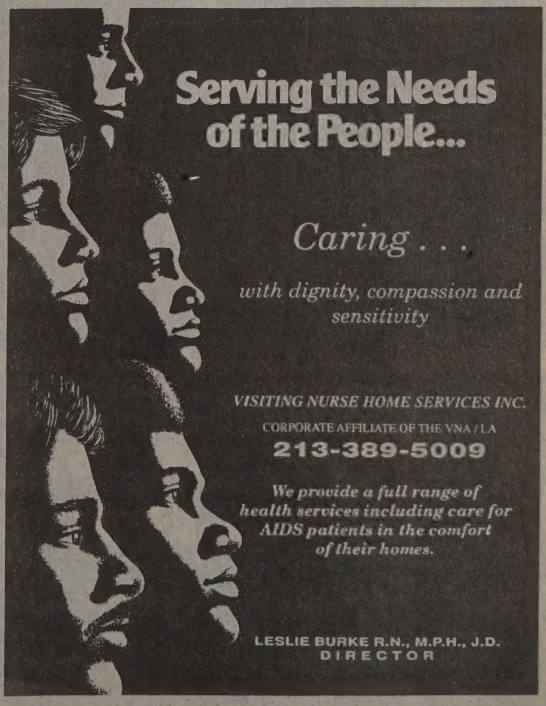
"If we give in on this film, we might as well close up shop," said a theater spokesman. "This is the perfect film to go to bat with."

Police only moved against *More of a Man* because it happened to be showing while they were in the theater on another matter. It is, experts agreed, among the X-rated videos least likely to be found obscene under Illinois law.

The actions against the Bijou—which include stepped-up arrests of customers who masturbate while watching sex films—aroused strong response from key local gay activists, who wrote harshly worded letters to Mayor Richard Daley.

"I want the Chicago police to do something a little more important with my tax dollars," commented activist Rick Garcia, "like maybe lower the murder rate or make the streets a little less threatening for gays and lesbians, who have to fear being gay-bashed to death every time they walk out their doors."

Daleys's Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues also got involved, saying it was worried about first Amendment issues, the definition of obscenity and "the appearance that a business which serves gay men [is] being singled out."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ACT-UP/Chicago Splits in Debate Over AIDS Priority; HIV Positives Form Own Group, ACT-UP/Windy City

By Rex Wockner

CHICAGO—Seventeen HIV-positive men split with ACT-UP/Chicago April 11 to form their own group, ACT-UP/Windy City. Most of the men, two of whom are black, oppose the degree to which ACT-UP/Chicago has taken on the battles against racism and sexism, to the alleged exclusion of AIDS issues. Some also reject the group's alleged "socialist" tendencies.

Similar ACT-UP splits have occurred in San Francisco and Portland, Ore., where, as in Chicago, the original chapters took aim at several social problems that some activists believe make the AIDS crisis worse.

The debate over fighting only AIDS vs. fighting social forces that interact with the epidemic has emerged in most ACT-UP chapters nationwide, while a similar conflict—pitting homophobia against other social ills—is taking shape in many chapters of Queer Nation, an ACT-UP-style group pursuing lesbian and gay issues.

ACT-UP chapters around the country have actively fought such things as ableism, lesbian and gay assimilation, capitalism, classism, military spending, racism, sexism and the Persian Gulf war.

ACT-UP/Windy City co-founder Dan Don called this agenda "The Thousand Year Plan for Peace and Harmony in the Universe. [ACT-UP/Chicago is] wallowed down in issues of racism and socialism," he said, "but political and radicalism in itself ain't going to help us stay alive."

"Those are certainly good causes," added group co-founder Tom Hogueisson, "but we don't have the luxury of time. We need to work right now to access effective HIV treatments. I personally don't know if I'm going to be around to see the fruition of [ACT-UP/Chicago's] struggles. We've fought those issues for 20 years."

Hoeueisson said he was an Army warrant officer until he was discharged after the military's mandatory testing found HIV antibodies in his blood.

At present, ACT-UP/Windy City membership is limited to HIV-positives. Tension mounted at the meeting when Don challenged ACT-UP/Chicago member Jeff Elliot: "Are you HIV-positive?...I don't believe you're infected."

"That's an inappropriate question to ask me," Elliot responded. "I have a right to my privacy."

The attendees agreed, however, that they do not want to spend time fighting with ACT-UP/Chicago. "I don't want to start a battle," Hogueisson said. "I just think they've lost their focus. We can empower each other, but we won't win any battles through confrontation with other gay groups."

"We've got something more at stake," added Don. "Hopefully we won't lose control to socialists."

The men at the meeting who had been members of ACT-UP/Chicago's Persons With AIDS Caucus said they were surprised to see 17-18 HIV-positives at the meeting. ACT-UP/Chicago's PWA Caucus never drew more than four people to any meeting, they said.

Noticeably absent, however, was PWA Daniel Sotomayor, Chicago's most well-known AIDS activist, who quit ACT-UP/Chicago last year charging that AIDS had become fourth on its agenda "after racism, sexism and homophobia."

In an interview, Sotomayor said: "ACT-UP/Windy City needs to do their work without the shadow of me. I was too visible in ACT-UP/Chicago. I was viewed under a magnifying glass no matter what I did, good or bad. I wouldn't want to dominate the new group that way. It's fair that other HIV-positives organize this without the help of a quasi-media celebrity. Some people have problems with that too."

Sotomayor's own new direction-action group, Cure AIDS NOW, is working to place AIDS advertising in the mainstream media. If the ads are not accepted, he said, local news operations will be disrupted.

ACT-UP/Chicago spokeswoman Sharyl Holtzman took issue with many of ACT-UP/Windy City's assertions. But she said that as the AIDS direct-action movement grows, splits are inevitable and should not be considered a bad thing.

Holtzman compared the multiplication of direct-action groups to the diversification in the AIDS-service community. While one or two community organizations originally served PWAs in most cities, now scores of organizations specialize in such areas as food delivery, drug access, rap groups, etc.

"There are many issues that surround AIDS," Holtzman said, "including sexism and racism and homophobia. They contribute to the crisis and it's natural to fight these issues in addition to fighting for treatments and access to health care. ACT-UP is a coalition [of] the people that AIDS affects and their issues are part of the fight.

"However, I don't view [the emergence of ACT-UP/Windy City] negatively at all," Holtzman continued. "It's a natural progression. I embrace ACT-UP/Windy City and Cure AIDS Now. I hope 20 more groups form to take on the different issues within AIDS."

But Holtzman denounced ACT-UP/Windy City's perception that ACT-UP/Chicago is more concerned about racism, sexism, homophobia and socialism than about AIDS.

"Those charges are completely untrue and unfair, and they are awfully insulting to people who have been working very, very hard to fight for the betterment of the lives of people with AIDS," she said. "Everything we do is directly related to AIDS...We are not progressives and lesbians against gay white males. That's bunk. It's a movement that is growing and changing, and it is going to splinter to focus on different AIDS-specific issues.

The issues raised at ACT-UP/Windy City's first meeting ranged from bureaucratic bumbling to specific drugs needed right now by some members.

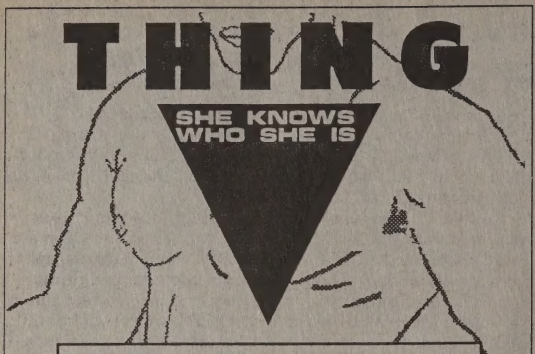
Likely future targets include the American Medical Association, "for fiddling while Rome burns," and pro-gay Chicago Mayor Richard Daley, for selecting a Catholic nun to head the health department.

Catholic teaching on gay sex, condoms, birth control and abortion is at odds with the policies of the health department and activists believe Sr. Sheila Lyne will eventually be forced by the Vatican to choose between her job and her religious vocation. They want her to make that decision now while she is still easily replaceable.

Other ACT-UP/Windy City members are primarily concerned about drug access. One man said he was worried that the latest drugs may not be available at Cook County Hospital, where PWAs without health insurance are treated.

Another man said he had been diagnosed with cryptosporidium, which causes nausea and diarrhea and, as a result, severe weight loss. A key drug for controlling the nausea is marijuana, but he had been unable to secure the substance—a problem that was resolved within minutes.

"I'm just pissed off that you can't get stuff when you need it," summed up another HIV-positive.



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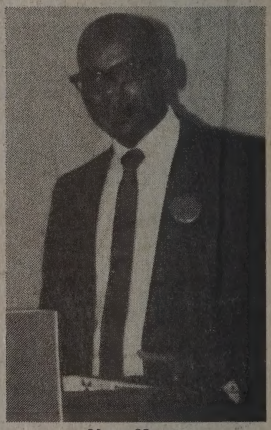
Black Gay Republican in Race for Boston Council

BOSTON—On April 20, in the historic African Meeting House on Boston's Beacon Hill, 28-year-old Boston businessman Abner Mason, a black gay Republican, announced his candidacy for an at large seat on the Boston City Council. If elected, Mason would be the first openly gay black candidate to hold citywide office in a major American city.

In 1989, Keith St. John became the first openly gay black man to gain elective office in the U.S. He was voted in by members of Albany, N.Y.'s 2nd Ward.

In his announcement address to a crowd of about 100 supporters, Mason said, "I believe my candidacy will in some sense be a referendum on Boston. If Boston is basically a racist city where a black candidate cannot win votes in white districts, then I will lose. If Boston is a city that hates gay people, I will lose."



Abner Mason

"When people tell me that I can't win, they're telling me more about themselves and their image of this city than they are about my candidacy," he said. "If I am right, if Boston is primarily not a racist city, but is instead a city of wonderfully diverse neighborhoods. If Boston is a city that judges individuals and political candidates not on their sexual orientations but on the content of their characters. If Boston is a city where three minorities might just make a majority, then I will win a seat on the Boston City Council."

A Harvard College graduate and the owner of two small businesses, Mason is actively involved in a number of community organizations. He serves on the boards of Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly, the Black Business Round Table, the Massachusetts Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights and the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination Advisory Committee.

Mason is a member of the Log Cabin Club of Massachusetts, a lesbian and gay Republican organization, the Massachusetts Lesbian and Gay Political Caucus, and the Greater Boston Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance.

"With Mike Duffy's campaign last year and Abner Mason's campaign this year, it is clear that the impetus for gay electoral action in Massachusetts is coming from gay Republicans," said Richard Tafel, president of the National Federation of Log Cabin Clubs. "We hope Abner's campaign will inspire gay Republicans to seek office in other cities and states around the U.S."

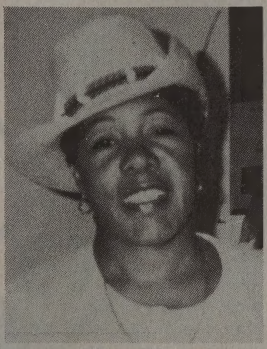
"Abner Mason's campaign is a historic opportunity to unite the concerns of African Americans and gays through the actions of a single candidate," asserts David LaFontaine, lobbying director for the Massachusetts Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights. "Abner will turn conventional wisdom on its head by turning his "triple minority" status into a formula for victory."

Meanwhile, in Seattle, Sherry Harris has declared her candidacy for that city's governing body. If she prevails, Harris would become the first openly lesbian black woman to hold elective office in the U.S.

Hurdie Stiles Named to Seattle Gay Commission

By Tripp Hunter

SEATTLE—The Seattle Commission for Lesbians and Gays (SCLG), an advisory group reporting directly to Mayor Norm Rice, was joined recently by Hurdie Stiles, one of the city's more active black lesbians. Stiles was appointed to a three-year term by City Councilman Tom Weeks after being referred by the Women's Funding Alliance.



Hurdie Stiles

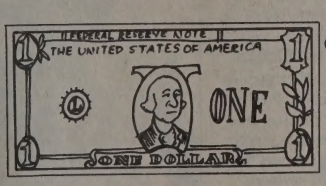
Stiles, a native of El Paso, Texas where she helped mobilize that city's lesbian and gay community in pursuit of civil rights, is the second African-American on the 15-member commission. Milton Farquhar, who is gay, was appointed to the panel last year.

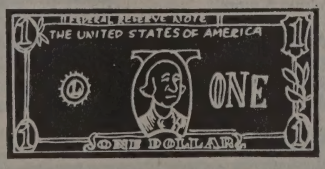
Though a new member of the commission, Stiles has already taken on significant issues. She is involved with matters that concern lesbians who are mothers, senior or of ethnic origin. Along with Farquhar, she is also interested in the problem of homophobia in the black community.

In advising the mayor, Stiles's influence may reach the state level as well. There is currently a fight against a bill that would require a mandatory HIV test for suspected criminals, and a fight for inclusion of lesbians and gay men in the language of another bill that establishes protection for victims of hate crimes. Both bills are under consideration in the Washington state senate, and through the course of debate, the mayor's commission will continue to have opportunities to make its position known.

An area resident for only three years and a registered nurse by profession, Stiles is a boardmember of the Lesbian Resource Center.

Among its other functions, the SCLG has been instrumental in developing sensitivity training for the Seattle police centered on the rights of lesbian and gay citizens as well as lesbian and gay police officers.





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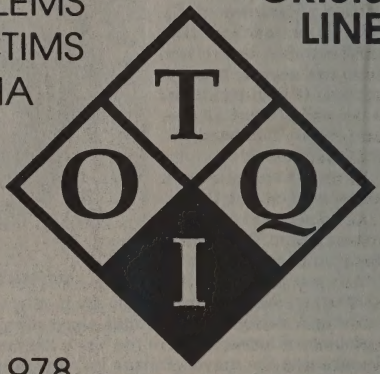

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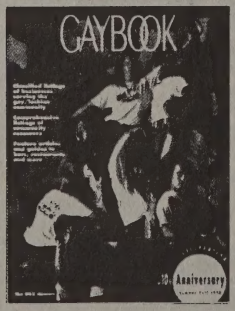

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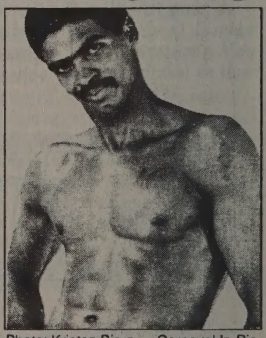

Photo: Kristen Bjorn — Carnaval In Rio

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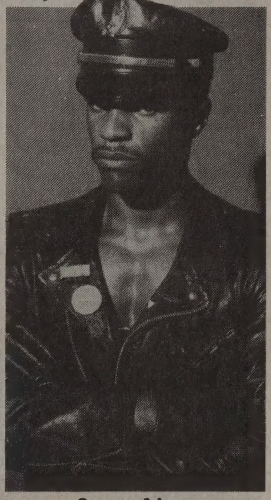
Greg Adams Named Mr. Pendulum Leather 1991

SAN FRANCISCO—Actor and AIDS activist Gregory Adams has been named Mr. Pendulum Leather 1991. He was awarded the title by Marc Earnshaw, manager of the Pendulum, in a ceremonies held recently.



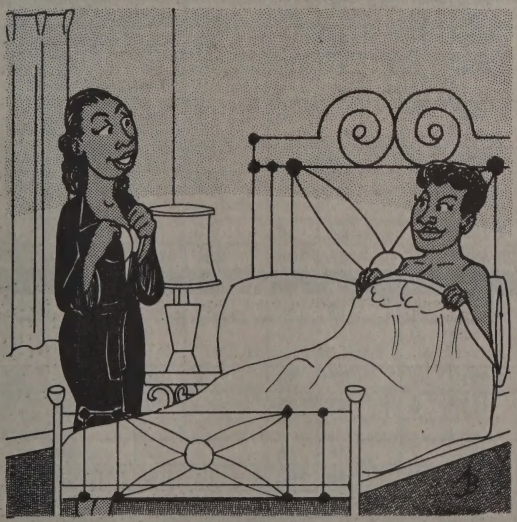
Gregory Adams

"Gregory has worked with us on a number of events, all of them highly successful," noted Earnshaw. "He is already very visible in the community, and his professionalism, confident demeanor and dedication represent the bar well. Rod [Kobila, the bar's owner] and I thought it time that Gregory's efforts be officially recognized."

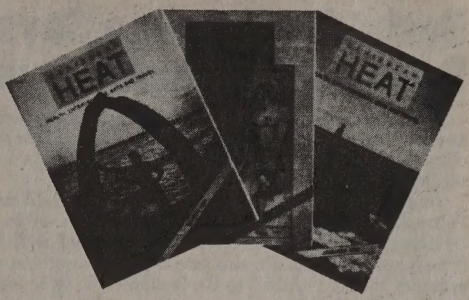
Adams will represent the Castro area bar at the International Mr. Leather Contest slated for Chicago Memorial Day weekend.

"As a gay man and a person of color, I am committed to the philosophy that we must learn to celebrate our diversity and capitalize upon it, always striving for excellence, rather than—even if only by omission—using it as a mechanism to self-destruct," Adams told BLK. "Only then will we be able to make a final and fully responsive impact on what is presently, at best a mediocre state of affairs."

Most recently, Adams has sponsored fundraisers for the San Francisco Black Coalition on AIDS, the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention and the Early Intervention and Care of HIV Program.



"Now those are the kind of 'twin peaks' I like."



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Barbados Top Cop Says Gays, Drugs Cause Crime

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados—Orville Durant, the Commissioner of the Royal Barbados Police Force blames homosexuality and drug abuse for the rise in violence on the island according to an article in *Gay Times*.

In a speech to the annual general meeting of the country's Police Association, Durant claimed people involved in what he called "loose and unwholesome relationships" were liable to be murder victims. He also said that there was "no extraordinary risk of murder" to Barbadians who were lesbian, gay or involved with drugs.

Funmilayo Jones, a prominent Barbadian forensic sociologist, commenting on Durant's statement in the *Sunday Sun* said the commissioner's comments "could have an adverse societal reaction, comparable to that which existed in the United States when the first AIDS case was reported."

She noted that she didn't believe the commissioner had intended to stir up discrimination or violence against the lesbian and gay community "but it is possible they may be victimized."

The *Daily Nation* newspaper, meanwhile, gave front page coverage to the arrival of the gay cruise ship Sea Breeze in Bridgetown, with 840 gay men on board. The article said "Board of Tourism sources made it clear that Barbadian authorities had no control over the type of passengers brought here by cruise liners." It then noted that the chairman of the Board of Tourism had told hoteliers at a seminar on tourism that "Barbados did not have to cheapen itself to attract visitors."

Students in South Africa Challenge Heterosexism

By Rex Wockner

DURBAN, South Africa—The National Union of South African Students adopted a motion during its recent conference in Durban committing itself to challenge all forms of heterosexism.

It is "the most far-reaching [pro-lesbian and gay statement] yet adopted by a non-lesbian and gay progressive organization in South Africa," according to the newsletter of the Organization of Lesbian and Gay Activists.

In other student news, black lesbians and gay men at the University of Witwatersrand in Soweto have formed the Society for Homosexuals on Campus. OLGA said the group was inspired by last October's first-ever lesbian and gay pride march in Johannesburg. An earlier group at the university, the Wits Gay and Lesbian Movement, petered out in 1987.

Meanwhile, OLGA has declared war on Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu, following an interview in *Fair Lady*. Tutu stated that he is "a libertarian through and through" but that he isn't ready to ordain "practicing homosexuals."

"People should not be marginalised and put into categories and made to suffer because of something they can do very little about," Tutu said, "[but] the church has accepted that the only arena where sex is right is in a monogamous marriage between two people of opposite sex."

In Durban, meanwhile, Gay and Lesbian Activists of Durban [GLAD] has come into existence. The new group follows close on the heels of a new lesbian organizaiton called Sunday's Women.

CDC March Statistics on AIDS Cases in U.S.

	White (not Latino)		Black (not Latino)		Latino		Asian/Pacific Islander		American Indian/ Alaskan Native		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
MALE												
Gay and bisexual contact	71,039	80	17,020	44	10,757	46	777	82	130	63	99,941	66
Straight IV drug use	5,753	6	13,618	35	9,064	39	32	3	22	11	28,553	19
Gay and bisexual contact, and IV drug use	6,453	7	3,030	8	1,605	7	21	2	32	15	11,153	7
Hemophilia and coagulation disorder	1,187	1	98	0	115	0	17	2	8	4	1,429	1
Straight contact	623	1	2,627	7	389	2	9	1	3	1	3,657	2
Receipt of blood transfusion, blood components or tissue	1,738	2	363	1	212	1	43	5	2	1	2,365	2
Other and undetermined	1,930	2	1,788	5	1,188	5	54	6	10	5	5,010	3
Male subtotal	88,723	100	38,544	100	23,330	100	953	100	207	100	152,108	100
FEMALE												
IV drug use	1,798	41	4,948	57	1,743	50	14	16	18	53	8,537	51
Hemophilia and coagulation disorder	26	1	5	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	33	0
Straight contact	1,338	30	2,846	33	1,291	37	32	36	8	24	5,534	33
Receipt of blood transfusion, blood components or tissue	964	22	310	4	187	5	27	30	4	12	1,496	9
Other and undetermined	306	7	642	7	232	7	16	18	4	12	1,205	7
Female subtotal	4,432	100	8,751	100	3,455	100	89	100	34	100	16,805	100
Total	93,155		47,295		26,785		1,042		241		168,913	

Source: "Adult/Adolescent AIDS Cases by Sex, Exposure Category and Race/Ethnicity Reported through March 1991, United States," U.S. Centers for Disease Control. HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, April 1991

BLK VEIL

Obituaries are published free of charge. They are accepted from funeral directors, families, lovers, friends and AIDS service organizations. Include your name, address and phone number for our records. We prefer to write the notice ourselves from the details you provide. If known, include the deceased's principal city of residence, correct legal name, any nicknames or pseudonyms by which they were known in the community, dates of birth and death as well as locations of birth and death. In addition, include all relevant biographical and professional data in both early and later life. Don't assume any detail or accomplishment is too small to include, Although, we edit notices to not more than seven lines, it is better to have too much information than too little. We can provide information gathering forms on request. Memorial display advertising is accepted at prevailing advertising rates.

STEPHEN MICHAEL FIELDS, 27, died Feb. 5 of complications associated with AIDS, as reported in the *Update.* fields, born in San Francsico and raised in Las Vegas, moved to California where he worked in various capacities in and around West Hollywood. He worked as a clerk/cashier and was noted for his ability to sell the product. Although he did not perform publicly, he was said to be a talented singer. He is survived by his life partner, relatives and friends.

DARRYL EDWARD HEARD, born Dec. 8 1959, died March 10 of complicaton assocaited with AIDS, as reported in the *Bay Area Reporter.* He was 32. Heard was a San Francisco resident where he worked as a paramedic. During 1986-1987, the Gay Community Awards named him disc jockey of the year. He appeared in the production *Men Behind Bars* in 1988 and 1990. He is survived by family and friends in New York and San Francisco.

ROBERT LUCAS, 43, died of AIDS complications in Los Angeles, Feb. 9. After serving in the U.S. Air Force from 1967-1971, Lucas pursued his education and received a B.A. Degree in Theatre Arts from Goddard College in Vermont. Having taught school in both California and Maryland, he also became an ordained minister. A gay community activist, Lucas was a volunteer at Aid for AIDS and was later employed in the organization's office, as reported in the *Update.*

FREDRIC FISHER McCLAIN JR., 36, of Chicago, Ill., was born March 2, 1955 and died March 29 1991. After graduating high school in florida, McClain attended Truman College in Chicago and later became an ordained minister. Active in the community, he worked with Book Forum and the Chicago Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays. He is survived by his family and many friends.

PHILLIP B. McINTYRE, died March 21, of AIDS related complications as reported in the *Washington Blade.* McIntyre graduated from Catholic University with a B.A. in music and a M.A. in organ performance. In several D.C. public schools, he taught music and humanitites and was also a part-time associate professor of music at the University of the District of Columbia. McIntyre's experiences led him from organist, to director of music, to guest conductor at the Kennedy Center. He was 40.

SAMUEL "RAY" MITCHELL, born in Baton Rouge, La. in 1947, died of complications related to AIDS in Washington, D.C. He was 44. Mitchell lived in Los Angeles a number of years and was at one time employed by the Los Angeles Police Department. While living in D.C., he worked with the homeless as a part-time counselor and for the local telephone company. He is survived by his famliy and many friends in Washington, D.C. and Los Angeles.

EMILE PACE, died Feb. 24, of complications associated with sickle cell anemia, as reported in the *Black and White Men Together/ Memphis Newsletter.* Pace was a member of Y-MACT, the youth caucus of MACT/New York. He was noted as a black gay man who devoted much of his time to fighting for the civil rights of men and women.

LEE TOWNSEND, a San Francisco resident died Feb. 14 in a car accident. Townsend having served in the armed forces, was a Veteran and had pursued many other careers. She was an advocate for lesbians, non-lesbian women and black people. She is survived by her significant other of thirteen years, family and friends on the East Coast, the West Coast and abroad, as reported in the *Bay Area Reporter.*

ALAN WIGGINS, died Jan. 6 of AIDS related complicatons. Wiggins, 32, was a former outfielder for the Baltimore Orioles and the San Diego Padres. He was also drafted to play with the California Angels and the Los Angeles Dodgers. He is survived by his wife and three children, family and friends across the nation.

Black and White Men Together

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Read My Lips

by Preston G. Guider

Eight-time Grammy-award winner **Wynton Marsalis** performed for a crowd of 2,200 at a benefit concert for the Wisconsin AIDS Fund recently...**Gay Men of African Descent,** the premiere African-American support group in the nation, is heading west. First stop Detroit, with **Howard Whitfield** taking the reins of executive director. Meetings are held Fridays at 2664 Wight St...When in Chi-Town you *must* visit the **Clubhouse** and pray to the goddess of music of which **Tony Harris** and **Frankie Knuckles** are two of the deity's Earthly representatives. The men with the drinks are **Duke Ovearl, Darrell Terrell** and **Donald Hansbrough**...**BWMT/Philadelphia** has come up with a T-shirt "Dare to Be Different." They sell for $10 at Giovanni's Room and Girlfriend's...If there was such a thing as Black and Brown Men Together, the Watts Towers is where you would find them in lensman **Tony Gleaton**'s photo essay, "Black Mexico: the African Legacy." The popular exhibit, held over for a month before heading to New York, is a dramatic portrayal of five centuries of Africans in Mexico. Where better than Watts to debut such a show? The photos move on to the Schomberg in New York...**Black Forest Productions,** the folks who brought you *Suckcess* and *In Thrust We Trust* have decided to become a membership club. Two major benefits: For them, legal protection. For you, lower prices...**Jewel's Catch One** has a new membership option as well. "Catch One Club" members pay no cover on special nights, get reduced admission on others, are invited to free parties and receive special birthday favors. All for $5 a year. No, this must be $50. No, it clearly says $5 a year. Call 213-737-1159 and find out...*Cruise* reports that **Black and White Men Together/Detroit** invaded Hooterville Station in Toledo for a Measure Up Contest...The **Women's Support Group** of the Counseling Center of Milwaukee sponsored a series of discussions called "Women Against Racism" while the **Peace Development Fund** sponsored a "Dismantling Racism" workshop last month in Portland...After **Grace Jones** turned 'em out at the Vic in Chicago last month she partied at Vortex...**Rev. Carl Bean**'s fast raised over $100,000 and enabled L.A.'s **Minority AIDS Project** to keep open its doors...According to the GMAD/NY *Newsletter,* an ex-employee of **U-Men U-Sweat** made off with the group's mailing list and started his own club. God'll getcha for that. UMUS is undamaged though, and planning for its 13th year...**Leonard Green,** D.C.'s most vocal black gay Republican, continues to make waves with his *Capitol Spotlight* column, "Gayocracy"...Proving everyone can learn, **Dr. Alvin F. Poussaint** of Harvard University received a 1991 Outstanding Feature Article Award from GLAAD/LA for his September 1990 *Ebony* article, "An Honest Look at Black Gay Men and Lesbians." Thirteen years before, in an October 1978 *Ebony* article, "What Makes Them Tick," the advisor to such TV programs as *Cosby Show,* offered the theory that some black men adopt homosexuality as a maneuver to help them avoid the increasing tension developing between black men and women...When San Francisco mayor Art Agnos was away in March, acting mayor **Roberta Achtenberg,** an open lesbian, presented **W. J. Brandy Moore** with a proclamation citing his "decades of significant and outstanding achievements"...After **Whoopi Goldberg**'s got her Best Supporting Actress Academy Award she said to the press, "I'm fucking thrilled"...In just one week, in Southern California the Children's Cancer Research Fund received more than $250,000 from the Los Angeles Kings and Great Earth Vitamins "Tip-a-King" benefit, the Concern Foundation for Cancer Research donated $145,000 to the UCLA School of Medicine and the Karolinska Institute, the Free Romania Foundation received $29,000 from the KABC-Romania Children's Fund and the Valley Presbyterian Hospital Pediatric Intensive Care Unit received $24,000 from the 400 people who attended a Women of Vision luncheon. *In just one week.* All that money went all those places. Now you tell us. What was missing?...**Essex Hemphill** was artist-in-residence at the St. Lawrence University Festival of the Arts last month. He led a discussion following a performance of *So Many Dreams* with **Larry Duckette.** Later in the month he gave a speech, "What If Freud Had Been a Neurotic Colored Woman?" responding to **Frances Cress Welsing**'s ridiculous ravings about homosexuality...**The Associates** commemorate their 20th year with an affair at the Meridian House in D.C... Leatherman and AIDS activist **Gregory Adams** was on display at The Mint to benefit the EACH program. He was also a candidate for Mr. San Francisco Leather 1991 jointly sponsored by **Eagle Creek** and the **Pendulum.** Alas, the brother didn't win...One more example proving that it's all about hype: Five white rappers who dress and act (one version of) black have decided to call their group **Young Black Teenagers.** Although we don't much like reducing blackness to a media formula, at least these guys are doing it openly, unlike Elvis Presley and quite a few others...**POCAAN** has been designated one of the beneficiaries of "Run with Pride" sponsored by the Seattle Frontrunners...**M. Corinne Mackey** read from her works at the Blue Door Bookstore in San Diego last month. Included were excerpts from *Slow Dancing with Jesus* and *She Didn't Get a Pussy Until 1977*...**Halima Williams, Mickey Fleming, Essex Hemphill** and **Larry Duckette** will appear at the D.C. Coalition's Breaking Barriers II May 11. Call 202-399-7249 for more info...**Change,** a group composed primarily of Black fashion designers held a show last month with the proceeds going to **Chicago House**...**Flo Kennedy** has thrown her support behind a **Philip H. Wilkie** bid for U.S. Congress. Wilkie is publisher of the *James White Review*...**Zakes Mokae** seems pleased with his part in *A Rage in Harlem.* "I'm a crossdresser. I wear dresses. I get boobs," he said...And we're outta here.

"Louis, wasn't Moby Dick supposed to be a whale?"

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Director of Youth Services. Individual experienced in developing and monitoring youth programs for gay and lesbian homeless youth populations. Responsible for staffing and managing department of over 20 employees. Strong budgetary, grant writing and computer skills required. Monitor performance of all grants for services and fiscal compliance. Management experience necessary. Advanced degree preferred. 5 to 7 years experience in youth programs. Send resume to: John Serne, Director of Personnel, GLCSC, 1213 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90038. (29)

Editor/Assistant for adult all-black magazine. Full or part-time. Must be familiar with Macintosh (Pagemaker or Quark X-Press). Send résumé to BFP, Box 42628, Los Angeles, CA 90050. (30)

Executive Director. New York's Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation seeks ED for $450K non-profit organizations. Extensive budgeting, fundraising, public speaking and personnel experience essential. Women, people of color urged to apply. Resume, detailed cover letter, salary requirements to: Search Committee, GLAAD/NY, 80 Varick St. #3E, New York, NY 10013. Deadline May 31. EOE. (30)

Executive Director. NY in '94, organizers of Gay Games IV, seeks ED with experience for coordinating large events/festivals, fundraising and fiscal management, short- and long-term strategic planning and public relations. Knowledge of gay and lesbian athletic community preferred. Women, people of color, HIV+ encouraged to apply. Resume, cover letter and salary requirement to: search Committee, New York in '94, Box 202, New York, NY 10036. Application deadline: May 15, 1991. (30)

Feminist Editor. Associate editor for women's publication. Eec. writing/copy-editing skills, familiarity with communities of color required. $19-22K, good benefits. Resume, short writing sample to: Sojourner, 42 Seaverns Ave., Boston, MA 02130. No calls. Women of color strongly encouraged to apply. (31)

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Human Rights Campaign Fund, the largest lesbian/gay political group in America, seeks field organizer. Recruits, motivates volunteers to generate constituent pressure on Congress. Extensive travel. Grassroots organizing experience/strong people skills required. Send resume and cover letter to Field Manager, HRCF, 1012 - 14th St., N.W., 6th Fl., Washington, DC 20005. People of color and women encouraged to apply. (31)

Minority AIDS Project needs volunteers to act as facilitators for HIV prevention skills and behavior change multi-session groups. Group sessions meet at various locations throughout Los Angeles on afternoons or evenings or weekends. Target population:homeless, substance abusers, IV drug users, prostitutes. Volunteers need car, must complete facilitator training requirements. Background and/or training in counseling or group facilitation is a plus. Call Frankie Lennon, Mon. through Fri., from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 213-936-4949. (29)

CALLS FOR SUBMISSION

Other Countries, the New York-based organization of writers and artists of African descent, has extended the deadline for submissions to their second journal to June 15, 1991. The second volume will focus on AIDS and will be the first collective response to the crisis ever published by gay men of African descent. As with the organization's first journal, the emphasis will be on diversity. Poetry, short stories, interviews, essays, art and graphics will all be included. In addition, both beginning and established authors will be represented. Submissions should be sent along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Other Countries Journal, Box 3142, New York, NY 10008-3142. (31)

An anthology of writing and artwork by Asian/Pacific lesbians is being compiled by Anne Mi Ok Bruining and Sharon Lim-Hing of Asian Lesbians of the East Coast. The genres are poetry, essays, short stories, autobiography and any artwork that can be reproduced in a book. Themes include but are not limited to the following: identity, sexuality, politics/social constructs, relationships, work/professions/careers, life cycles, disabilities and activities and interests. The deadline is Dec. 15, 1991, and submissions should be sent to Anne Mi Ok Bruining, 41 Shaw Rd., Little Compton, RI 02837. (31)

Work from emerging lesbian and gay artists sought by East Village alternative space. Group show this fall to be juried by gallery curators. Must be 26 years and under. Deadline July 1. Notification by August. Include 10-15 slides, an SASE for return, phone number and info to: Emerging Artists, Box 1544, New York, NY 10009. Women and people of color encouraged to apply. (31)

Celebration Theatre is seeking submissions for its second Open and Out Festival slated for Sept. 13-29 at the new theatre, 7051 Santa Monica Blvd., Hollywood. projects should be easily staged for workshop productions/readings and works about lesbians and people of color are especially encouraged. Submissions should be received by July 15 and sent to John Callahan, Celebration Theatre, 4470-107 Sunset Blvd. #353, L.A., CA 90027. (31)

Gay Games IV announces an open competition for a new logo. The logo must include the words "Unity '94" and work with or without the words "Gay Games IV." The design should reflect the theme of unity and may also include references to gay and lesbian athletes, gay and lesbian symbology or the location, New York City. The overall look should be clean and contemporary, work large or small, and in color or black and white. The winning design will be used on all Games promotional materials, merchandise, exhibits and event venues. Winners will receive a "Lifetime" membership to Gay Games IV, including tickets to special events, and samples of all Games merchandise using the logo. The panel of judges will include celebrity judges as well as design professionals, and the winner will be announced at a special kickoff party in the fall. The deadline is July 4, 1991 and there is a limit of 5 designs per entrant. For more information and an entry form, write: Logo Competition, NY in '94, Box 202, N.Y., NY 10036. People of color urged to apply. (31)

Queer Press is accepting manuscripts from survivors of childhood sexual abuse, or a friend, lover, family member or professional working with survivors, or a member of the queer community who has something to say. We particularly want to encourage gay men to write about these experiences. We also encourage all those whose voices have historically been suppressed. We want to encourage writing from those of us who are poor or working class, rural, disabled, young, old, politically radical, queers of colour and culturally and religiously diverse. We plan on supporting the expressions of those who have been silenced. Guidelines: Typed, dot-matrix and neatly handwritten work all accepted. Please include a self-addressed and stamped envelope, along with a brief biography with your contribution. We welcome previously unpublished authors and those who do not yet consider themselves "writers." We welcome artwork, but please don't send originals. Contributions on IBM compatible disks appreciated. We cannot guarantee that all work will be either published or returned. Mail to: Q. Press, Box 485, Sta. P, Toronto, ON M5S 2T1, Canada. Phone 416-516-3363. deadline May 31, 1991. (30)

Gay siblings anthology seeking manuscripts in the form of narratives or interviews telling significant, humorous, tragic or poignant stories of lesbians and gay men with their gay siblings. Non-fiction essays of all types will be considered. SASE. Deadline July 1, 1991. Don and Molly Martin, 1016 E. 7th Ave., Olympia, WA 98501. (29)

The Conditions Collective is accepting submissions for an anthology of writing by women on censorship to be published by Cleis Press. The Collective will consider fiction, poetry, analytical essays, novel excerpts, and translations on this topic. How does censorship

relate to the issues of, for example, race, class, age, relationships, sexuality, women in prison, women with AIDS/HIV, and women's and lesbian movements? The writings could also explore the ramifications of censorship on future writing; the ways that women censor one another and themselves; or the homophobic hysteria over gay and lesbian writing and visual images. Visuals will also be considered. The Conditions Collective welcomes the work of women all around the world who feel that a commitment to women is an integral part of their lives. Please send submissions, before June 1, 1990, (typed, double-spaced, up to 15 pages, with a SASE for return) to: Conditions, Box 1640, New York, NY 10003. (29)

Submissions of rap and poetry sought from lesbian and gay youth by IMRU, Southern California's longest running lesbian and gay radio program, for a special broadcast featuring rap music and verse. We're looking for original work that reflects lesbian and/or gay themes, and is positive, life affirming and empowering for lesbians and gay men. Entries containing the following will be disqualified: 1. Racism, sexism, homophobia or mean-spirited attacks on vulnerable groups of people. 2. Profanity or material even remotely connected to or connotating sexual or excretory functions or organs, due to FCC regulations on so-called "indecent" language. Submission requirements: 1. All entrants must be 18 to 24 years of age. 2. Individuals or groups may enter a maximum of two entries. 3. The following information must be provided on a 3"x5" index card: Artist's name, title of piece, format (rap song or poem), performance time (three minutes maximum), contact person's name, address and phone number (advise if discretion should be used when writing or phoning). 4. Text or lyrics of the entry must be typed only, on separate sheets of paper. Audio cassettes will be accepted only if accompanied by typed copy. No exceptions. 5. Entry deadline is April 26, 1991 at midnight. Absolutely no entries will be accepted after the deadline. All entries become property of Pacifica Radio/KPFK-FM and no entry will be returned to the entrant. To ensure broadcast quality, selected entries may be required to re-cord or re-record materials at the KPFK. Entries should be sent to: Joey Flyer, IMRU/Overnight Productions, KPFK-FM, 3729 Cahuenga Blvd. West, North Hollywood, CA 91604. (29)

Gay and Lesbian Media Coalition is seeking recently created videos by artists of color to be included in this year's L.A. International Gay and Lesbian Film and Video Festival to be held in July. Documentaries, experimental art and narrative pieces, animation and super-8 film transfers will all be considered. Send VHS or 3/4" videotapes by May 1, 1991 to: Adriene Jenik, GLMC, 8228 Sunset Blvd. #308, L.A., CA 90046. (29)

PLACES TO LIVE

Hollywood Bowl area. Looking for a masculine, gay or bisexual roommate to share two bedroom with loft apartment. 1300 sq. ft. with washer and dryer in unit. Secured parking. Central air. $565 monthly. First and last month rent. Charlie, 213-874-6541. (29)

Chino/Pomona area GBM seeks roommate. 3 bedroom 3 bath townhouse, pool/spa/all luxury amenities. $350/mo. 714-628-2443. (30)

Roommate to share 2 bedroom house in Ladera-View Heights area. Quiet neighborhood. Furnished bedroom, share rest of house and yard. Cable TV available. Prefer non-smoker professional responsible male or female 25-35. Rent $450/mo incl. util. Call 213-292-1590. (30)

Single apartment. Furnished. USC area. Mature adult. $400 per month. Call Dennis 213-731-3659. (30)

Three bedroom townhome, large bedroom and bath for rent. Quiet area, clean environment. $450 includes utilities. Move in immediately. For more information call 213-299-6758. (29)

FOR SALE

Skins, the fanzine for kinky uncut men. Free ads. Sample copy: $4 and statement of age. CB&V, Box 97694, Las Vegas, NV 89193. (39)

Hot sex! You can have it with this amazing herbal formula. Increases stamina and enhances sex drive. 100% natural. Safe and effective. Send $10 + SASE to Delacroix, 7605 Santa Monica Blvd. #610-B, Los Angeles, CA 90046. (30)

Bold black men in creatively hot photos! For intro set (10 men-10 photos) send age (21+), signature, $10 to Zebra Studios, Box 138271, Chicago, IL 60613. (31)

Gay magazines. Pack of 6 hot used magazines. Just $15. P&H, Inc. Send check or M.O. to Island Marketing, 127 S. Shore Dr., Island Lake, IL 60042, State you are 21. (37)

BLK T-shirts, satin jackets, baseball caps, sweatshirts, key tags, back issues, note cards, etc. now available mail order. Write: BLK Mail and Femail Store Catalog, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. Or call 800-TRUE-BLK, anytime 24 hours a day, seven days a week. (TF)

MASSEURS

Big, black and hairy, 38, 6'1", 175 lbs., lean, fit, top man, hung 8x6, cut, $50 min. in/out, ask for Mike. 213-874-9203. (29)

Attractive, well-built guy (29, 5'7", 140#), experienced, offers deep thorough relaxing massage to other in-shape guys by candlelight, table, $40 in West Hollywood, $? out. Greg, 213-650-6265. Calls verified. (30)

Randy Cochran. 818-997-3776. L.A.'s hot top black studman. Hung huge, yet versatile. 28, 5'9", 160 lbs., with a tight smooth body. 24-hour, in-out sessions. $125-$200/hr. Video titles include "Black Attack," "Heatwaves," "Black Force" and many more. Visits are in person...Not associated with 976-WOLF. Safe sex okay. (29)

The Real McCoy. Very handsome Italian professional, 29, great body, offers custom-tailored 5-star bodywork to the discerning man. Atmosphere, style, technique and more. Quite simply...the best! 213-288-6800. (31)

I'm Thomas, a tall, goodlooking white masseur near Palm Springs airport. Let me work on your stressed-out body and soul. 619-322-8077. (E)

Stop. Handsome, bubble-butted athlete will rub you in all the right spots. Don't be duped by phony masseurs. Let my legit, certified hands do the walking on your stressed body. $40 in. $60 out. 95% recall. Call Bryan. 213-224-0243. 24 hours. (29)

WOMEN'S PERSONALS

SBM, 40, very dominant arty type, likes dtraight, submissive bi-ladies, lesbians. No phonies, drugs. I'm hot and kinky. Hurry! BLK Mailbox #124. (E)

Hampton Roads, Virginia area. Single, black bisexual female, professional, 31, in search of feminine lesbian or bi-female for relationship varied interests. No fats, drugs, drugs or marrieds. Photo and note appreciated to BLK Mailbox #121. (E)

GBF, 25, graduate student, eclectic interests, multi-talented, new to the life, looking to connect with other GBFs from all over, especially Atlanta, Toledo/Detroit, D.C. for friendship and a sense of community. Will answer all. BLK Mailbox #132. (29)

BF, 26, student, not looking for romance through this ad. However, I would like to exchange postcards, short notes or long letters with women from all over. I live in Detroit. BLK Mailbox #107. (E)

Soulful, diamond in the raw, 19, African-American ISO lasting friendships with multi-cultured, positive lesbian sisters USA/abroad (18-?). Will answer all. Maria, 329 Childress Lane, Flora, MS 39071-9740. (29)

Fluffy, feminine, early 40s, fun-loving, witty, sensitive, romantic, who appreciates nature, intimacy, looking for independent butch. I am 5'7½", sexy, plump. Seek friendship first. Who knows what can happen? BLK Mailbox #115. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS INTERNATIONAL

Canadian GWM, 34, 5'9", 160#, attractive, masculine, fit, blue eyes, dark blond hair, beard, university student, enjoys reading, movies, videos, pen pals, swimming, outdoors, travel, seeks friends, any race or age, anywhere. T.H., Box 46612, Stn. G, Vancouver, BC V6R 4G8, Canada. (30)

GWM, 42, 5'6", 120, G/P F/A/P seeks 19-30 verbal abusive athletes. Correspondence welcomed. M.P.O. Box 15475, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 5B2, Canada. Jimmy, 604-683-7393, non-collect, 12 p.m.-11 a.m. (29)

Attractive Ghanaian 23, seeks white and black penpals 20-30 years. Write: Jack, Box 3879, Accra, Ghana, West Africa. (31)

White French man lives in Paris, 37 years, romantic, serious. Seek black bottom men masculine, like dildo, rubber, exchange naked hot photos together. Also look for some black videos, black worldwide are welcome. M. Francois, 15 rue Carmen, 94240 L'Hay les Roses, France. (29)

Attractive GWM, 38, 5'11", 165 lbs, dark hair, green eyes, moustache, hairy, well-built, Greek active, seeks big, muscular, masculine, Greek passive black or latino friends. Will travel. Visitors welcome to Paris. Photo please. P. Atlan, 8 Passage Lathuile, 75018 Paris, France. (31)

Visiting Italy? Bearded couple awaits BMs. D. Russo, Via Massena 51, Torino 10128, Italy. (29)

Active Japanese seeks muscular BM. Fujinuma, Nihontsutsumi 2-16-6, Taitoku, Tokyo, Japan. (29)

GWM, teddy-bear, seeks dominant black male tops for intimate friendship and fun. Doug, #103-4800 Arbutus, Vancouver, BC V6J 4A5. 604-263-3991. (TF)

MEN'S PERSONALS—AL

Black hung seeking black hung. Box 602, Huntsville, Alabama 35804. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—CA

Northern California

BM looking for BM. I am 5'10", 30 years old, 160 lbs., workout, have good job. If you would like a date, send photo to 438 Staten #302, Oakland, CA 94610. (29)

Phone sex. Black men only. 415-775-4919. (29)

Bodybuilder, top, SASE. Emmette Mitchell, C-22649 C-7-C-230, Box 29, Represa, CA 95671. (31)

GBM, 26, 5'7", handsome, discreet, non-smoker, would like to meet a young, handsome, masculine male under 5'10", for friendship and traveling. No feminine or fats. Send letter, photo and phone number to Box 20514, Oakland, CA 94620. (29)

Huge white hole eats dildos. Stretch it! Call hole. 415-585-8717. (E)

GBM, 33, bottom, seeks top bi or GBM, discreet, bright. Box 70571, Oakland, CA 94612. (33)

San Diego Area

Very special French-American businessman, 39, 5'11", 170 blond, masculine, non-smoker, non-drinker, healthy HIV+, intelligent, energetic, low-key, would like to share good times and travel between Europe and the U.S. with tall black man or Latino (over 6'2" if

possible), educated, fun, very masculine (muscles not important), professional, strong, top, truly heavily hung and long-lasting. Must be of excellent character. I have a lot to offer. Try me. You'll be glad you did. BLK Mailbox #125. (29)

Sapien erectus! Wanna unload? It's O.K.! Phone 619-292-1922 now! (29)

Beefy GWM stud seeking expert oral service. Call Larry, 619-324-8964. (E)

Free! Fone fun for all cummers. A.C. 619-292-1922. Anytime. (31)

White boy seeks hung tops. Write Box 3411, La Mesa, CA 91944. (31)

WGM, 45, short, stocky, beard, Greek passive, French active/passive, seeks black man 35-55 for hot safe sex, ? relationship. No drugs. No bars. Will reply to all. Box 710183, San Diego, CA 92171. (29)

BM, Palm Springs area needs beginner BM for work-out buddy, maybe more. 619-324-5450, answer machine. (31)

Palm Springs topman seeking playmates! Boxholder #3337, PS, CA 92263. (E)

Male looking for hung, biBM. T.G., Box 3391, San Diego, CA 92163. (30)

GWM, masculine, top man. Larry, Box 3337, Palm Springs, CA 92263. (E)

Los Angeles Area

If you're blk and top man, enjoy getting sucked, and hung maxx size and horny, call Jim. 818-344-1913. No calls on Sat. (30)

BGM, 33, healthy HIV+, attractive, 5'11" 150 lbs., sincere, sensitive, spiritual and professional. Looking for BGM, 25-40, sensitive, affectionate, intelligent, masculine, employed and a top for possible relationship. L.A. area only please. Prefer non-smoker, absolutely no drugs. Box 2913, Culver City, CA 90230. (30)

Gay black intellectual sought by attractive, talented GWM, 35. I'm 6', 170, blue eyes. I value intelligence, sense of humor. Films, concerts, museums, romance? BLK Mailbox #129. (30)

Footbal player, beefy weightlifter wanted. U—love to cuddle. I—love to massage. We—need to belong. Black man, 41, 5'9", 180, workout. Box 29037, Los Angeles, CA 90029. (32)

Seek nine inches plus safe sex. I'm blond, blue, 5'11", 160, 30s, good shape. 213-657-5444. (30)

Handsome WM, 35, seeks olderman 37-57. I am 6', 180, built, muscular (weightlifter), non-promiscuous physician. You be loving, burly, 200 lbs. plus, paunchy but stocky type, honest and very masculine. I am not into "gay scene." BLK Mailbox #126. (30)

Black dick seeks warm mouth. Edward, 213-938-4964. (30)

Sexy French muscular bodybuilder, 30, 5'10", 175 bubblebutt, green-blue eyes, longs for tall, massive, super muscular, thick, bodybuilder over 200 lbs., any race, for friendship and safe fun. Am discreet, sophisticated. 213-656-2942. (33)

If you're a tall healthy GBM with a big cock, call Lee at 818-896-8890. This GL blond wants to please you. (30)

Tony of Wilton Place. Call Lee at 818-896-8890. (30)

GBM, 26, 5'10", 170 lbs, L.A. area, muscular, attractive, athletic, smooth skin and face, passive but not femme. Seeks handsome, muscular, athletic GBM/BiBM for friendship first and possible relationship. An awareness of the struggles of the African-American community and culture helps. BLK Mailbox #128. (30)

Sit on my face! Box 86651, L.A., CA 90086. (31)

Cute blond bottom seeks giant buffed dominant man. 818-765-5132. (31)

Discreet professional black male, a body worshipper, seeks muscular, chubby, husky, bodybuilder type men with super, super big thighs & super, super big bubble butt for friendship. 213-933-3098. (31)

Affection, passion, companion, HIV-. Box 5950243, Orange, CA 92667.(31)

21, GBM, seeks GWM. J. Palley, 10725 Acoma #14, North Hollywood, CA 91602. (30)

Commitment and values: B/M, 38, 5'11", 170, G/P seeks an affectionate tall G/A white or black top man 40-55 who likes 1-to-1, homelife, mountains and stability. Mel, Box 712427, LA 90071. 213-656-0258 ext. 22. (34) Mexican wants big dick. Box 19543, LAX 90019. (30)

Commitment and values: B/M, 38, 5'11", 170, G/P, seeks an affectionate, tall, G/A white or black top man, 40-55, who likes 1-to-1, homelife, mountains and stability. Mel, Box 712427, L.A. 90071, 213-656-0258, ext. 22 (29)

Magician seeks men of color into magick/witchcraft. Seriouses. 213-461-1338. (30)

Wanted: Non-angry GBM for tender relationship w/GWM artist, 36. Size unimportant. Ray Box 46846, L.A. 90046. (30)

Professional, very busy, 5'11", 160, 30s, seeks 8 inches or more. Safe sex. Financial arrangement for your time. F. Hammond, 8721 Santa Monica Blvd., #125, West Hollywood, CA 90069.(30)

BM, plump top, needs a bottom BM with dark, dark skin for safe fun. I like men 5'10" to 6'2" that like the bottom. A big tool is A+. Let the fun begin. David, Box 84174, L.A., CA 90073. (29)

BM. Black hips. Can I immerse 7½ real deep? D.P., Box 84174, L.A., CA 90073. (29)

GWM seeks GBM, handsome, hairy N.Y. Greek, 28, 165#, 5'10", well-built with Mel Gibson looks. Seeks well-built nice GBM, 25-38, for friendship or workout partner. Leave message, 24 hour. Mel. 213-281-1171. (30)

If your sex black tool is extra large (diameter and/or length) I challenge you to try me. I am 35 years old, Latino, 140 pounds, 5'7", bilingual. Letter and/or nude photo. Mr. V., Box 761326, Los Angeles, CA 90076. (31)

Sincere, slender black male artist seeks handsome, very aggressive, versatile, sincere, homo erectus, any race. No chubbies, queens or losers. Call 213-661-1431. (33)

Great looking couple. Black top, 45, white bottom, 30, like to meet black top/white bottom duo for friendship and safe sex. Box 42794, LAX 90050-0794. (30)

Blk/Hispanic male seeks masculine Asian, Hispanic or Black bottoms. You: 5'9" or taller, tanned to medium brown complexion. Must be G/P 25 to 35 yrs and able to make love to 9" of uncut condomed manmeat. Me: G/A 28 yrs 5'11" light brown skin, brown hair and eyes, attractive, 160 lbs. Your picture gets mine. Interested? Write: Mr. G., 3765 Motor Ave. #1094, LA, CA 90034. No fats or fems please. (29)

Volunteer research subjects are needed for a study concerning experiences and meanings of multiple AIDS-related losses. If you are a gay man who has lost 5 or more loved ones to AIDS, and would be willing to share your experiences, please call for a confidential interview: 213-876-7197. (29)

Amateur WM physique photographer in Baldwin Hills seeks masculine guys to model in exchange for prints. Personal use only. Phone number to D. Smith, Box 341515, L.A. 90034 (29)

Goodlooking, intelligent BGM, will be in San Francisco late June, early July. Want to meet Latin or Asian men 25-35. Politically active, literate, non-drinker, non-smoker. Prefer same. Reply BLK Mailbox #130. (29)

Good looking butch masculine fit bottom seeks BL/Latin top. I'm 31, 6'3", 200. You are hung, 25-45, affectionate lover cause I'm the best. Photo/phone to BLK Mailbox #131. (29)

Me: GWM 39 professional, likes music, desert, beach, blond blue eyes, bottom but versatile, hung & fair shape. You: GBM top, hung, 35-50, into hot sex and fun activities. Seeking friend not lover. Photo/letter to 9671 Magnolia #107, Riverside, CA 92503. (29)

Latins R us! Latins and admirers meet in a discreet way, active organization with members worldwide. For free info send SASE to: HMS, 8721 Santa Monica Blvd. #338-B, Hollywood, CA 90069. (29)

Hot raunchy white wants domination. Box 86651, L.A. 90026. (30)

White seeks black for friendship and more. GWM, 32, body-builder, seeks GBM, 27 to 40. Me: honest, energetic, intelligent, mature, passionate, loving, assertive but versatile, capable of compromise, professional, handsome, masculine, muscular, brown hair, blue eyes, 6'2", 195#, 8x5½", bubble-butt. You: similar man of excellent character, ready and capable of being an equal partner, 6'2" to 6'5", 9x6½+", dark and muscular and healthy. Call 619-322-6292. You won't be bored! (31)

Goodlooking, easy-going, very oral, sensual, safe, flexible, fun GWM, professional, 43, 180 6', moustache, hairy chest, seeks very muscular only (body-builder a plus), black male for pleasurable, discreet contact. Call 213-913-0259 before 10 p.m. (30)

Attractive and successful black writer seeks intelligent and articulate man of any race for travel, dating, romance. I am 30, 5'9", 140, swimmer. Call, leave message, 213-222-1115, or write Box 421145, Los Angeles, CA 90042. (29)

Black male, 35, 175 pounds, 5'8", bottom, wants to meet bodybuilder for mutual workouts. Race not important. 2600 Azusa Ave. #273, W. Covina, CA 91792. (30)

Gay male, 37, 5'9", 165 lbs., blue eyes, into classic film, music, sunset walks at the beach, seeks intelligent, aware individual for mutually-fulfilling companionship. Please call Bruce at 213-338-9695. (24)

MEN'S PERSONALS—CO

Caribbean man wants tops with thick dicks. Box 18714, Denver, CO 80218. (29)

MEN'S PERSONALS—CT

Congenial WM ISO BM. Box 284, Hartford, CT 06141-0284. (TF)

MEN'S PERSONALS—DC

GWM seeks GBM hung huge. 202-483-3693. (31)

Single African-American male 26, 5'9" slender, light complexioned, masculine, healthy and intelligent and very conscious. Seeking friendship and correspondence with intelligent serious minded, independent masculine, light skin brother or Puerto Rican brother age 20-29. Let's write with photos & letters to Eric, Box 39215, Wash, D.C. 20016. Peace brother. (30)

GBM, straight-appearing, stocky, romantic, seeks gay white man. Must be financially successful, 25-40, straight-appearing, romantic and willing to develop a relationship with a victim of the current economic conditions. Will travel. Serious relpies only. Photo or phone number a must. Reply BLK Mailbox #127. (29)

MEN'S PERSONALS—GA

GBM 30 195 seeks J/O partner GBM 24-30. Box 54894, Atlanta, GA 30308)

MEN'S PERSONALS—HI

You are top, hung, HIV+ and want to enjoy life. Loving home waiting for you in Hawaii. Write: Boxholder, Box 75704, Honolulu, HI 96836. (30)

MEN'S PERSONALS—IN

Incarcerated male to be released in under a year. Now that you know my bad side. I'm a white male, 27 years old, 5'6", 150 lbs., green eyes, with long brown hair. Wide variety of interests that range from weightlifting, bikes,

The Legal Stuff

■ **Complete and sign the following. None of this information will appear in your ad.**

Name_____

Address_____

City_____

State_____ Zip_____

Phone (_____) _____

■ I am an adult of legal voting age and consent to the placing of my ad in BLK. I understand that the Blk Publishing Company is in no way responsible for any transactions between myself and any persons I contact through its publications.

Signed_____

The Rates

■ **Personal ads** of 8 words or fewer are free if this form is used and your ad is sent by mail. No duplicates or copies. More than 8 words, the rate is 40 cents per additional word. Abbreviations are unnecessary since you are charged by the word.

■ **Employment offered ads** may be placed at the rate of 10 cents per word. There is no limit to the number of words.

■ **All other ads** take the rate of 40 cents per word.

BLK Mailboxes

■ **Mailbox number and forwarding service.** You may have the replies to your *personal or employment offered ad* sent to a BLK Mailbox for $7 per month. Replies are forwarded to you in a plain envelope once a week, for six weeks after your ad appears. Mail may not be picked up in person.

■ **Replying to a BLK Mailbox.** Only letters may be sent to BLK Mailboxes. They may not be used for the distribution of bulk mail or circulars. To reply, address your envelope:

BLK Mailbox #_____
BLK Classifieds
Box 83912
Los Angeles, California 90083-0912

The Rules

■ Deadline: First Friday of the month of publication.

■ Ads received after deadline will appear in the following issue.

■ Open account billing available on approved credit. Terms: Net 10 EOM. Minimum charge is $15. *Credit must be approved in advance.*

■ **Rules and regulations.** *A word is any group of letters or numbers with a space on either side of it.* Free ads may run a maximum of three times, then must be renewed. We reserve the right to reject, rewrite or edit ads including those that advertise or solicit sexual acts considered unsafe by current AIDS criteria. Telephone numbers in ads must be verified prior to publication at a charge of $3 (within California $1). If a number has been previously verified by BLK, attach an ad containing the number to your new ad. Advertiser's complete name, address and authorizing signature must accompany ad. This information is confidential and will not appear in your ad.

By Telephone

■ You may place your ad by telephone and charge it to Visa, MasterCard or American Express if your order totals $15 or more.

■ Call toll-free 800-TRUE-BLK anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Tell the computer which credit card you have, the card number, expiration date and what you want your ad to say.

By Mail

■ Completely free ads may only be placed by mail.

■ Ads that are not completely free may be paid by check, Visa, MasterCard or American Express. Do not send cash.

■ Send to: BLK Classifieds, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912.

By Credit Card

■ Minimum for credit card billing is $15 whether by phone or by mail.

Name of credit card_____ Expires_____

Credit card number_____

Your Ad

■ **Print clearly what you want to appear in your ad. Use a separate sheet if you need more space.**

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■ **Figure cost of ad:**

_____ words at 40¢ (8 free if personal ad)	$_____
_____ words at 10¢ (employment ads)	$_____
Cost to run ad one month	$_____
Number of times you want ad to run _____	
Total cost of ads	$_____
Phone verification at $3 (within CA $1)	$_____
BLK Mailbox at $7 per month	$_____
One-year subscription at $18 to BLK	$_____
Total enclosed (send no cash)	$_____

traveling, nature, etc. Pretty down to earth guy who enjoys the easier things in life. Honesty and loyalty are my two strongest points along with a good character and an easy laugh. I have an open mind, therefore, I am an easy person to converse with, and encourage meaningful conversation. I feel the sole purpose of life is to simply be happy and enjoy it as it comes. I'd like to hear from a mature gentlemen for friendship, companionship. Please write to M. Leonard, #875533, Box 30, Pendleton, IN 46064. I hope to hear from you soon. (E)

GWM wants relationship. Dennis Pitman, #882430, Box 30, Pendleton, IN 46064. (29)

Incarcerated in Indiana. GWM, 30, handsome, intelligent, out in one year, seeks sincere, serious lifemate. No games. Jeff Schrader #21140, Box 30, Pendleton, IN 46064. (29)

MEN'S PERSONALS—IL

GWM, 30s, blond, 5'9", 140 lbs., athletic, masculine, movies, travel, working out, etc. seeks athletic GBM or BiBM, under 40 years old, for safe, hot encounters. Top/bottom. 312-327-4895. (E)

GWM seeks GBM, 30s, in Chicago. 312-525-1267. (31)

White, 38, lonely, hot. J. Evans, 610 N. Henrietta, Effingham, IL 62401. (29)

MEN'S PERSONALS—LA

Gay black father seeks friendship/relationship with other gay fathers black or white or those who appreciate children who have reached adolescent age. I am a warm sensitive romantic in search of others who are family-oriented. Write Ly-Leh, Box 144, Evergreen, LA 71333. (29)

Black male, seeking bi-couples, TVs, TSs, drag queens, crossdressers, any race, any shape, ages 21 to 55, for friendship, kinky times, swinging. Am clean and discreet. Like all cultures. Motel meetings in Natchez, Miss., Vidalia, La., Ferriday, La. area. Call anytime day or night. 318-339-9269. C.B., Box 941, Jonesville, La. 71343. (29)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MD

Nice guy seeks same for friendship. This 50-year-old straight-acting WM is looking for a very masculine BM. Pleasant disposition, positive outlook and stability are important to me. Blue collar, thick endowment and trim build are pluses. Send detailed letter and photo of yourself to: BLK Mailbox #118 or call 301-779-6738. Pen pals welcome. Visitors to D.C. should call in advance of arrival. (29)

GBM, 24, 5'11", 165 lbs., in Washington, D.C. area, mature, very attractive and straight acting/appearance, enjoys playing baseball, basketball, tennis. I am seeking someone for possible friendship/something serious with GBM/BiBM, 25-43. Like I, you must be healthy, sexy, a little romantic, spiritually conscious, straightforward, discreet (not paranoid), comfortable with yourself/sexuality. Important that you have an awareness and concern of the black community and its struggles. Knowledge or willing to learn of your black culture/heritage a plus. Must be someone who is serious and realizes life and relationships consist of more than just sex, but of respect for yourself, me, our families and friends! Could I be asking too much? Let's make my first ad a success! No effeminates! BLK Mailbox #123 (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MA

WM, 53, seeks thin, romantic, clean black male in Boston. Call 617-524-0417. (30)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NJ

GBM, 20, seeks GWM for relationship. Box 1825, Rahway, NJ 07065. (E)

White male, 32, 160, brown hair, blue eyes, seeking young males for friends/sexual partners. Prefer cute, slim, smooth, cut, clean-shaven boyish Northern European, black and Southeast Asians. Like music, philosophy, science, health food. Am honest, sensitive, sincere. Live-in possible. No V.D., kinky/slutty types. Photo a must (preferably revealing)! Ron, Box 307, Irvington, NJ 07111-1940. (31)

GWM, 31, seeks GBM. R.G., Box 83, Hackensack, NJ 07602-0083. (29)

You: BGM. Me: Frustrated. Help! Box 130, Pennsauken, NJ 08110. (29)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NY

GWM, 43, BB, handsome, 195 lbs., hairy, versatile, 6', seeks lean, muscular, defined, sincere, honest, GBM with washboard abdominals. Photo necessary. Box 6A, 111 Montague St., Brooklyn, NY 11201. (E)

White male, middle age, enjoys the company and friendship of black males for dinner, theater and quiet times. John, Box 10042, Staten Island, NY 10310. (29)

White professional seeks black man. Smith, 118 Second St., Albany, 12210. (31)

White male, middle-aged, enjoys the company and friendship of black males, any age, for dinner, movies, quiet times. New York area. Respond to John, Box 10042, Staten Island, NY 10310. (29)

GWM, 42, 5'1", 125 lbs, brown hair, blue eyes, eyeglasses, considered cute. Cigarettes, wine, dancing, antiques, movies, rock, classical, quiet nights at home. Mature, responsible, warm, gentle, loving. Seek black male 40+, same attributes for friendship and possibly more. Rochester, N.Y. area. Serious replies only, send photo. BLK Mailbox #133 (29)

Very lonely black gent, retired professional, 65, silver-haired, medium brown skin, very short, stocky (5'2", 155), shy, submissive, servile, plain looking, conversationalist, Fr/Act only; eagerly seeks male (only) friends, guests (blacks, Hispanics, any race/age) who are clean, intelligent, dominant, large, macho, Fr/Pass., verbally aggressive (no drugs, S/M), discreet. 212-681-0179 evenings only 9-11:30 p.m. Dave R., 930 Grand Concourse #6B, Bronx, N.Y. 10451. No inmates. (E)

GBM, masculine, intelligent seeks GM. Box 400665, Brooklyn, NY 11240. (E)

Muscular, hard runner's build. Hot, sensual, HIV-, hung, versatile. Smooth, upbeat professional GWM, 44, 5'5", 128 lbs., enjoying fitness, outdoors, humor, arts, work, romance, travel, seeks warm-spirited, firm-bodied, hot-blooded, creative-minded, healthy-habited GBM, 30-45, any location, for fun/friendship/relationship. Rick, Box 4102, Utica, NY 13504. (E)

BiBM, 25, 5'9", hazel eyes, seeks black or Latino homeboy type, 18-26, in N.Y.C. area with athletic build for occasional, boy-to-boy fun. Must be disease-free. Send ph/ph. Let's do this. BLK Mailbox #119. (E)

Lean, muscular, GBM, top, 52, 6', 155, seeks fit, muscular, intelligent bottoms, into camping, hiking, nudism, travel, all ages/races. J. Tree, Box 161, S.I., NY 10304. (29)

GWM, continental, refined, personable, safe, hospitable, in his 50s, seeks hung BM for worship and devotion. 212-677-4159. (29)

Masculine GBM wanted by goodlooking GBM, 24, for friendship/fun. Send letter/picture to: Boxholder, Box 2122, New York 10008-2122. (E)

GWM, 48, goodlooking, masculine appearance, HIV-, caring, down to earth guy, seeks young, masculine BM, 18-30 for serious relationship, Box 547, Bridgehampton, NY 11932. (29)

Hung GBM, 50s, top, seeks hairy Hispanic bottom. BLK Mailbox #120. (E)

Are there any black and Latin tops out there? Haven't been able to find any. Prove you're not an endangered species! PR bottom would like to meet you. Age or dick size not important. Must look/act straight. I'm 40, 140 lbs., 5'11", slim. Write to: Louis, Box 642, Corona-Elmhurst, NY 11373-0642. Letter with photo and/or phone gets answered first. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NC

Gay white male, 41, straight-acting and ex-military, seeks black friends anywhere. Will answer all. Mike Thomas, Box 16911, Greensboro, NC 27416. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—OH

Black gay male seeks a mentally and physically stimulating relationship with gay male. You: healthy sense of humor, positive outlook, willing and capable of being equal and sharing mate, best friend, lover in a healthy, trusting, honest relationship. Me: attractive, 43 years, 5'7", muscular, 160 lbs., nonsmoker, drinker or drug user, with a masculine demeanor and variety of interests. Send letter and photo, Chas., Box 524, Cincinnati, OH 45201. (E)

GMW, 5'10", 155, 35, ISO GBM 18-30 for friendship and possibly more. Relocating to Dayton, Ohio area soon and need roommate/housemate. Respond with photo to Ron, Box 17474, Arlington, VA 22216. Let's talk. Trust me, you can't go wrong. Pen pals welcome. (E)

Listen up, fellas. GBM, 30, 6'1", 210 lbs., masculine build, college football jock, top, professional. I'm looking for a GBM, Carribean, South American, Oriental bottom, ages 25 to 45. No fatties. I'm HIV-, willing to travel to East Coast, Midwest, Southeast U.S.A. Looking for that special someone who is interested in dining, movies, jazz, fitness. A bottom who wants to be with someone who wants to make you happy. Please send letter, photos. Nude photo will get even faster reply. Mail to BLK Mailbox #110. I am very passionate. I like to give a warm massage and rub you all over. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—RI

BM, 31, 190 lbs., stocky muscular build, seeks WM, 28-50, from Connecticut to Maine. I will be re-locating to Newport, R.I. June or July 1991. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—SC

Hot blooded, masculine, black Southern buck, 25, with hot Southern comfort to offer. Interested in masculine GBM everywhere. I'm extremely fond of medium to large physique men, however, slender men are welcome also. Send your hottest letters and photos in exchange for mine. (No fats or fems, please.) Marc, Box 12143, Cola, SC 29211. (29)

Attractive, masculine, GBM, 25, would like to meet GBM from everywhere who could teach an inexperienced ex-prisoner of guilt about being gay. The joy of gay sex! Am very eager to learn. Send your hottest letters and nude photos. In return you'll get mine. M.T., Box 12143, Cola, South Carolina. No fems, please! (29)

MEN'S PERSONALS—TX

Uncuts fascinate you? Like to call, write, meet or play with uncuts? Correspondence-contact club for those into Uncuts. SASE to UM, Box 72455-BK, Corpus Christi, TX 78472. (31)

Houston: GWM, 52, 5'7½", HIV-, bottom, wants very large black men, horse hung, to enjoy this hungry ass. Send photo and address. BLK Mailbox #122. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—UT

GWM, 55, 5'8", 150, attractive Utah professional, seeks GBM or Latin athlete, non-smoker, non-drinker, non-drug user. If you fit this description and are seriously looking for a quality one-one relationship, call 801-364-2523. (32)

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INTRODUCTIONS

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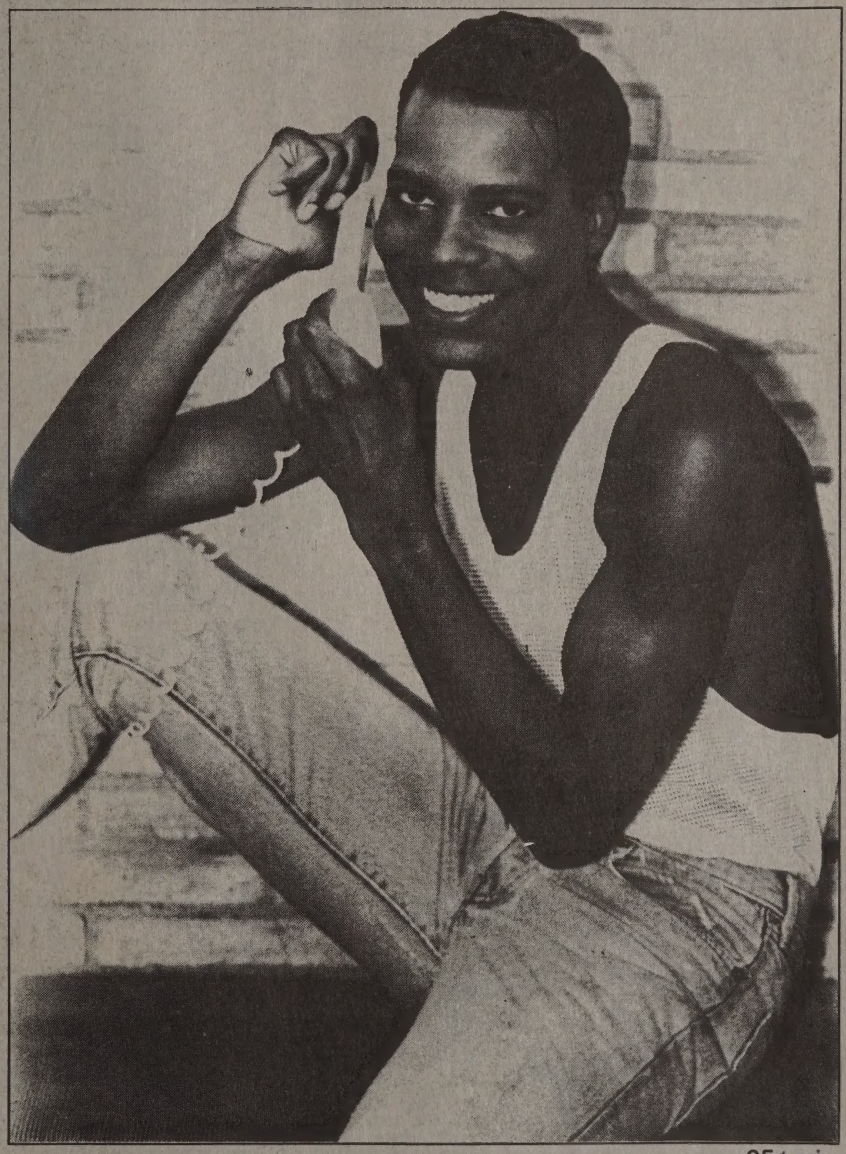

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Vol. 3, No. 4
Whole No. 29
April 1991

Lesbians and Gay Men in the Arab and Moslem World

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Word Up

News of the Outrageous, the Amusing, the Pathetic and the Unexpected by Leon Miller

Chain Gang

The Sheridan Broadcasting Network is running one of the cleverest magazine ads I've ever seen. Titled "The Authoritative Source of News," the ad lists 150 black- or news-related names and phrases each chained to one another in ways that change from item to item.

For instance, "Red China," "yellow rain" and "white supremacist" are connected because they all contain a color, whereas "San Francisco earthquake" and "microwave" are connected by the notion of "wave."

But the chain that left me on the floor, howling with laughter—as well as admiration—was the following sequence: "Tracy Chapman, Patrick Kelly, Arsenio Hall."

Frederick H. Mattingly, Jr., Sheridan's vice president of marketing and communications and, the ad's author, spoke with BLK about his creation.

"The basic philosophy behind the ad was to show that...we not only cover those issues that are important to the black community—the African-American community—but those issues that are important to people—as citizens, as human beings, as breathing and thinking individuals."

"But what about those three people?" I asked.

"They were all kind of distinctly different in their own way," Mattingly said. "Their differences were their similarities, if you know what I mean. The way they approached life was what made them who they were. The Tracy Chapmans of the world, the Patrick Kellys of the world, the Arsenio Halls of the world are so unique unto themselves—I think that's why I put those three together."

"And their reputed sexual orientation?" I asked.

"I'm sure that went into my thinking," he said.

Funny Voices on the Radio

Morning listeners to KISS (98.7 FM), one of New York's more popular R&B radio stations, have recently been treated to "Around the Way Shante," characterized by one listener as a "gossip gathering queen who reads as he dishes dirt" but described by the station's program director as simply "someone with a funny voice."

"There's not too much that can be said that's not going to be offensive to *someone,*" KISS's Vinny Brown told BLK. "The character's certainly not supposed to be offensive to the gay community or whomever. He has never implied through innuendo or whatever else of being anything more than someone with a funny voice. He is a gossip that *does* talk about people, but never makes any reference or presents any innuendo or double entendre or anything having to do with any gayness or whatever. I think it's the way the people read into the character."

Brown said that "Shante" is a listener, not a paid employee of the station, who calls in frequently to do his "bit." "He talks about some funny stuff. We just kind of throw him on the air from time to time," he said.

But at least one listener to the station, officially known as WRKS, says the character is clearly intended to be a butch queen. He found the portrayal in "bad taste" though "harmless."

The Truth about Sabrina

During the National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference, Dr. Leonard Simon sang her praises and invited Sojourner Truth to the podium.

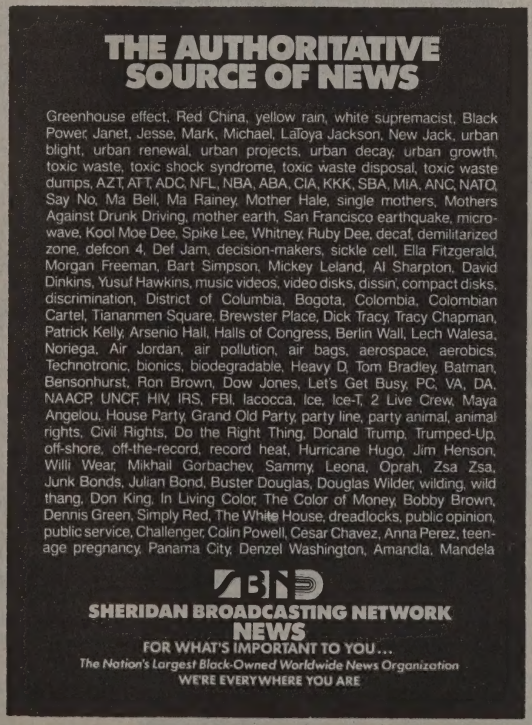
A recent article in San Diego's *Gay & Lesbian Nation* told of an award Sojourner Truth had received from the Atlanta Association of Black Journalists for a commentary she wrote last year.

The problem is that Sojourner Truth, a former slave, evangelist and civil rights pioneer, died in 1883.

Who these folks really had in mind is former Atlanta journalist Sabrina Sojourner, who has just taken a position with the National Organization for Women in Washington.

Sabrina told BLK that this sort of mix-up happens all the time. The most significant gaffe occurred in 1989, she said, when she spoke before 600 people at a university in Pennsylvania. Apparently she had corrected the dean of students, who was to introduce her, several times, but he still got it wrong, to titters in the audience.

No one likes to be called out of their name, but it could have been somewhat worse. Supposed she had been born Sabrina Savannah.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Greenhouse effect, Red China, yellow rain, white supremacist, Black Power, Janet, Jesse, Mark, Michael, LaToya Jackson, New Jack, urban blight, urban renewal, urban projects, urban decay, urban growth, toxic waste, toxic shock syndrome, toxic waste disposal, toxic waste dumps, AZT, ATT, ADC, NFL, NBA, ABA, CIA, KKK, SBA, MIA, ANC, NATO, Say No, Ma Bell, Ma Rainey, Mother Hale, single mothers, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, mother earth, San Francisco earthquake, microwave, Kool Moe Dee, Spike Lee, Whitney, Ruby Dee, decaf, demilitarized zone, defcon 4, Def Jam, decision-makers, sickle cell, Ella Fitzgerald, Morgan Freeman, Bart Simpson, Mickey Leland, Al Sharpton, David Dinkins, Yusuf Hawkins, music videos, video disks, dissin', compact disks, discrimination, District of Columbia, Bogota, Colombia, Colombian Cartel, Tiananmen Square, Brewster Place, Dick Tracy, Tracy Chapman, Patrick Kelly, Arsenio Hall, Halls of Congress, Berlin Wall, Lech Walesa, Noriega, Air Jordan, air pollution, air bags, aerospace, aerobics, Technotronic, bionics, biodegradable, Heavy D, Tom Bradley, Batman, Bensonhurst, Ron Brown, Dow Jones, Let's Get Busy, PC, VA, DA, NAACP, UNCF, HIV, IRS, FBI, Iacocca, Ice, Ice-T, 2 Live Crew, Maya Angelou, House Party, Grand Old Party, party line, party animal, animal rights, Civil Rights, Do the Right Thing, Donald Trump, Trumped-Up, off-shore, off-the-record, record heat, Hurricane Hugo, Jim Henson, Willi Wear, Mikhail Gorbachev, Sammy, Leona, Oprah, Zsa Zsa, Junk Bonds, Julian Bond, Buster Douglas, Douglas Wilder, wilding, wild thang, Don King, In Living Color, The Color of Money, Bobby Brown, Dennis Green, Simply Red, The White House, dreadlocks, public opinion, public service, Challenger, Colin Powell, Cesar Chavez, Anna Perez, teenage pregnancy, Panama City, Denzel Washington, Amandla, Mandela
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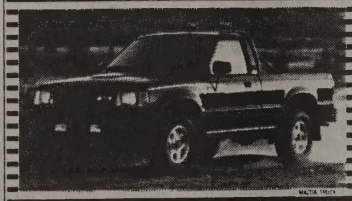

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April 1991

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ON THE COVER: Willis Oliver, Jr. *Photo by Bruce Hunt.*

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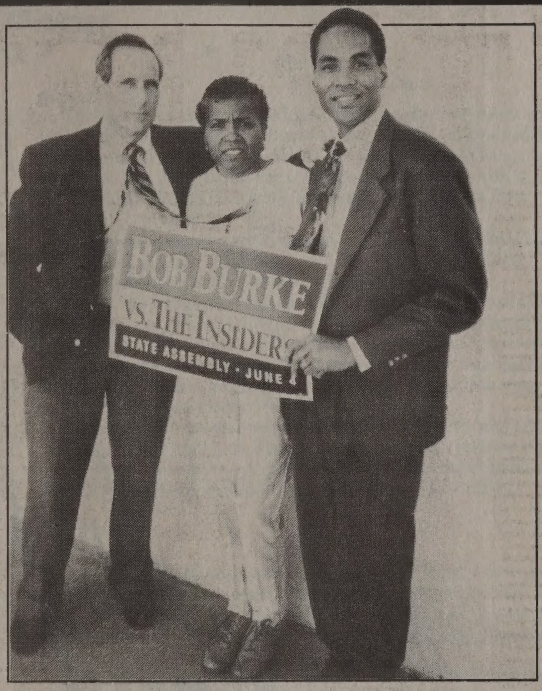

Bob Burke pictured with community activists, Jewell Williams and Phill Wilson.

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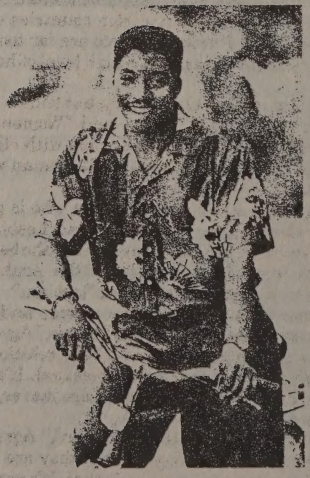

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No Peace

Homosexuality may be widespread in the Arab and Moslem world, but homosexuals are not

By Rex Wockner

In the aftermath of the Persian Gulf War, gays and lesbians are wondering aloud about their brothers and sisters in the Arab and Moslem worlds.

The questions Western gays and lesbians have are difficult to answer since there are no lesbian and gay organizations anywhere in the region save for Israel, which has a Western-style gay community and movement.

OVERVIEW

But a journalist can piece together a sketchy picture with help from immigrants, the international gay press, human rights activists and the few organizations interested in international lesbian and gay issues,

And there is at least one thing we can apparently say with certainty: Male homosexuality is very widespread—perhaps even ubiquitous—in the Arab and Moslem world. But it is rarely, if ever, a topic of conversation.

Sources familiar with the region insist that virtually all men have sex with other men throughout their lives. They all also get married and father children.

Since men, unlike women, are free to set their own schedules: rendezvous take place in the evenings, at night, or on weekend trips together, immigrants say. Neither the wives nor anyone else asks any questions, even though the sexual status quo is "common knowledge."

"The topic never comes up," said one immigrant.

"It is no one's concern," said another.

"Such questions are just not asked—by anyone," added a third immigrant.

Lesbianism is all but invisible in the region, probably because of the extreme institutionalized sexism, by Western standards, of the Arab and Islamic world.

Still, sources familiar with the region believe that at least some women do have sex with each other. They would never consider themselves lesbians, however.

This is the first of two major dichotomies. The Arab and Moslem world is apparently one of the most homosexualized areas of the globe—especially among men—but there are few, if any, gays and lesbians.

The second dichotomy is this: In this highly homosexualized region, one also finds the world's harshest penalties for homosexual sex acts— ranging from a few years in prison to being thrown off a mountain or burned alive.

Homosexuality is often illegal under both civil and Islamic law, the latter calling for execution by any number of grisly means in some countries.

This can be traced to the Islamic "Shariah" code, a Koran- and revelation-based legal system roughly comparable to the Talmudic tradition in Judaism. There are numerous schools of thought in Shariah law, and penalties for homosexual acts vary from country to country (and sometimes within the same country).

The Koran is the Islamic bible, composed of writings accepted by Moslems as revelations made to the prophet Muhammad by Allah through the angel Gabriel. The Koran itself doesn't say anything about homosexuality, according to Dr. Jeanette Wakin, a senior lecturer in Islamic studies at Columbia University.

But religious lawyers have created extensive and detailed laws based on their study and interpretation of the Koran—much as Catholic canon lawyers do with the Bible.

One of the harshest versions of Shariah law is apparently in force in Iran, where evidence exists, which will be detailed below, that the fundamentalist Islamic government has been executing gays and lesbians for more than a year—chopping off their heads and stoning them to death, two of the many options permitted under Iranian Shariah.

Although it is not the case in Iran, often only gay-male sex is illegal under civil law. This is not because lawmakers are pro-lesbian. Rather, they consider women so inconsequential that they forget to include them in anti-gay legislation.

"Most Islamic cultures don't take kindly to organized homosexuality, even though male homoeroticism is deep within their cultural roots!" says Lisa Power, co-secretary general of the International Lesbian and Gay Association.

"ILGA receives individual communications from a number of Arab countries, although not from countries where there are death penalties. But most people are far too nervous to organize, even in countries with a high level of homosexuality.

"For lesbians, it varies by country, but female sexuality is generally very sublimated," Power said. "Women in many Islamic cultures spend much of their time with other women, but sexuality only seems to be part of a woman when it's referring to men."

Jehan Agrama, an Egyptian lesbian who is president of the Los Angeles chapter of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, has other suspicions. She believes there is significant woman-woman sex in the Arab world—although it certainly is not considered "lesbian."

"Women can have sex with other women and feel friendship and not necessarily identify as lesbian," Agrama said. "I know people in Egypt who have these relationships and wouldn't even consider themselves bisexual. It's not part of the consciousness. Maybe the women are just enjoying their anonymity and having a ball.

"But as in all countries [of the region]," Agrama continued, "nobody goes around saying that they are lesbian—or gay either. There is no freedom to do that. It's very hypocritical since there's so much same-sex sex going on, especially men."

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Check your vision daily.

Trig Tarazi, a Palestinian born in Kuwait who now lives in Boston, agrees. "The Arab world is very much into the family unit," Tarazi said, "and men must fulfill their family role. But as long as they do that, they are free to do whatever else they want and this is not questioned.

"And since nobody talks about homosexuality, they don't have to fear somebody is going to say this—or even think this—about them. It's very strange to have men come up to you in bars and show you pictures of their kids and then say, 'OK, let's go [have sex] now,'" Tarazi continued. "To them, being gay is a sexual thing. It's not emotional. And the tiny minority who do see themselves as gay in the Western sense —as loving men—are frustrated; they feel oppressed the most.

"The rest of the men," Tarazi said, "are very comfortable. They think it's the best of all possible worlds. Since nobody recognizes homosexuality as even existing, they can get away with things we cannot get away with here. But if you start actually talking about homosexuality, they get very uncomfortable,"

"Arab men realize they are bisexual," echoed John Elkholy, president of the Los Angeles chapter of the U.S. Gay and Lesbian Arabic Society. "They get married because of societal pressure, but they have flings with men throughout their lives. It's a pretty open thing. It's a macho thing, actually, for a man to have another man and be dominant or whatever."

Elkholy says that until the formation of GLAS/LA a year ago, "I thought I was the only Arab who was out of the closet in L.A. I had no one to talk to except for Hispanic people who have similar cultural background."

GLAS/LA now has 30 names on its mailing list, six of which are women, while the original GLAS chapter in Washington, D.C. boasts a mailing list of 182 individuals from around the nation.

But a discrete mailing list is a long step from public activism. GLAS organizers said there were no recent immigrants on their mailing lists who would talk to reporters.

Perhaps the situation in Iran is a good place to begin to understand the social-psychological terror that leads most Arab and Moslem gays and lesbians to remain closeted, even when they are thousands of miles from their oppressive—and in some cases murderous—homelands.

There is evidence that for the past year Iranian authorities have been executing men and women found guilty of engaging in homosexual sex. This was first reported in January, 1990, by U.S. columnist Jack Anderson. He wrote that according to his sources and shortwave-radio broadcasts, "The medieval government of Iran celebrated the New Year [of 1990] by beheading homosexuals."

Anderson continued "On New Year's Eve, Iran's Chief Justice Morteza Moghtadai held private discussions with lower judges and court officials to outline a new policy toward homosexuals.

"'The religious punishment for the despicable act of homosexuality is death for both parties,'" Anderson quoted Moghtadai as saying.

Under Shariah, "the judge presiding over the case has five options for execution of homosexuals," Anderson detailed: "beheaded by a sword; stoned to death; thrown down from a height such as a mountain or tall building; die under the rubble of a wall demolished on their head; or burned alive."

Anderson said that three gay men were beheaded in the city square of Nahavand and two lesbians stoned to death in the city of Langrood on New Year's Day, 1990.

Attempts to confirm Anderson's report were thwarted for months. U.S. interests in Iran are handled by the Swiss embassy. Several calls to different offices at the embassy were met with alarm. Press attache Jean Daniel Bieler's response was typical.

"If it is not an administrative or practical matter, it is not possible to discuss it by telephone," Bieler interrupted. "We cannot speak about anything political on the telephone. You *must* understand." Bieler's voice inflections hinted that he was familiar with the topic, however.

In the meantime, the U.S. State Department's public-affairs advisor for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, George Malleck, agreed to order several computer searches through the department's Foreign Broadcast Information Service. "Nothing turned up, at least nothing that had been translated."

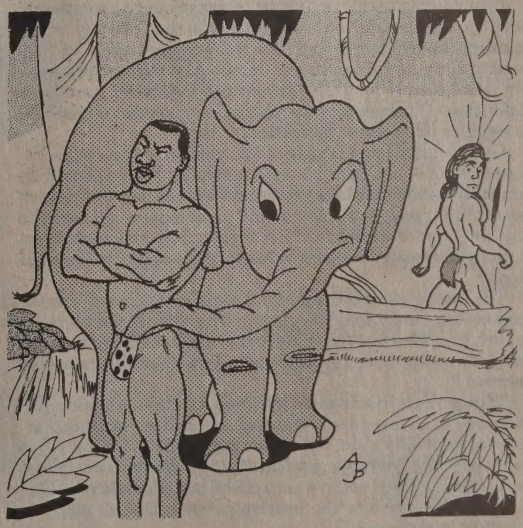
But Malleck suggested: "If Iran is bragging about this [anti-gay campaign] on [shortwave] radio, then it's probably true. Those people have committed so many offenses against common decency, you shouldn't be surprised that this is just one more group of people who have been chosen for the regime's ire. They kill lots of people for lots of reasons, none of which make lots of sense."

Months passed with no more news on the situation of Iranian gays and lesbians until the British Broadcasting Corporation Monitoring Service, the intelligence-gathering wing of England's state radio and TV, picked up another shortwave broadcast from the Voice of the Islamic Republic, on May 18, 1990.

According to a BBC transcript, evidence that Anderson's report may have been accurate came during a replay of "a second Friday prayers sermon delivered at Tehran University May 18 by Ayatollah Musavi-Ardebili," one of Iran's key political and spiritual leaders.

"For homosexuals, men or women, Islam has prescribed the most severe punishments," Musavi-Ardebili said. "After it has been proved on the basis of Shariah, they should seize him [or her], they should keep him standing, they should split him in two with a sword, they should either cut off his neck or they should split him from the head.

"He will fall down," the Ayatollah continued. "After he is



"I tell you before, Lord Greystore, I not forgive you so easy for calling me 'boy' today. Now you take hand out of there and go away."

dead: they bring logs, make a fire and place the corpse on the logs, set fire to it and burn it. Or it should be taken to the top of a mountain and thrown down. Then the parts of the corpse should be gathered together and burnt. Or they should dig a hole, make a fire in the hole, and throw him alive into the fire. We do not have such punishments for other offenses.

"There cannot be the slightest degree of mercy or compassion toward those who observe inadequate Islamic dress or toward prohibitions. There should not be the slightest degree of mercy towards these criminals,"

Musavi-Ardebili stressed the importance of developing an "anti-vice culture.... The people should learn to see evil to a degree that even the perpetrator of a vice should tremble with a tormented conscience after having committed that vice under the compulsion of physical desire," he said.

Columbia's Dr. Wakin was aghast when read Musavi-Ardebili's remarks, saying: "This is the opinion of a crazy man who is probably sublimating something. This is not Shariah."

But Wakin acknowledged that different schools of Shariah lawyers have created varied interpretations of the Koran and religious tradition.

According to Amnesty International, the Iranian press reported the New Year's Day executions mentioned by Jack Anderson, but did not link them to homosexuality *per se.*

"We have reports from the official Farsi press of the beheadings in Nahavand and Langrood," said Alice Miller, a lesbian who directs Amnesty USA's Death Penalty Program. "But according to the Iranian government, the three men were convicted of raping two [male] youth while drunk and the two women were convicted of 'spreading corruption,' 'prohibited things,' and 'adultery.'"

Miller said "prohibited things" often means drunkenness while "adultery" can only be committed "by a married woman who has sex with a man who is not her husband."

"However," Miller continued, "Iran is executing 1,500 people a year and they're not terribly careful on what they get the persons for. They sentence you to death and kill you the same day, so we're basically reduced to just tracking executions."

(The conflict within Amnesty International on whether to adopt people imprisoned solely because they are gay or lesbian continues to rage and will be addressed again in September at a general meeting in Japan. At present, homosexuals jailed simply for being gay do not fall under Amnesty's definition of "prisoner of conscience" and are not eligible for assistance from the organization.

On the other hand, gay activists who have been jailed because of their activism have occasionally been adopted by Amnesty because their persecution was seen as a free-speech issue. Miller says the delay in adding homosexuals per se to the "prisoner of conscience" list results from religious objections by Amnesty members in Asian, African and Islamic nations.)

The latest word on the general social situation of Iranian gays comes from a Tehran gay man who recently immigrated to Sweden. "Mansour" left his home "after realizing that the religious and political pressure left me with no future opportunities."

"Every [man] in Iran is involved in male-to-male sex," Mansour said, "because premarital sex and sex outside marriage are not only a sin, but is also very difficult [to find]. But being gay and having a gay identity is a Western phenomenon. [Iranian men] act in a very cliché male/female role. One is either the active or the passive partner. But all men are involved in male sex."

Mansour joined delegates to ILGA's annual conference last summer in Stockholm for a rowdy demonstration against Iran's reported murder of homosexuals. In a letter to the Iranian government, ILGA protested, "It is shocking that such ignorant, sadistic and blood-thirsty behavior can be associated with any religion or group of people."

There was no response from Iran.

Another Iranian immigrant living in Sweden, "Farid," recently told the newspaper *Kom Vt* the anti-gay sentiment in Iran has become so severe that, "No one feeling an attraction for someone of the same sex dares act on such a feeling [now.]

"The Iranian ayatollahs do not merely condemn homosexuality, they are doing their utmost to root it out of Iran totally," Farid said.

Farid told *Kom Ut* that in the early 1980s, 70 gays and lesbians were tossed off a mountain, in accordance with the Shariah code, after they tried to start a lesbian and gay organization.

Shariah began to be enforced after the 1979 ouster of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, Farid said, adding that, "In certain circles, it was rumored that the Shah was bisexual—that he met a young man he liked in Switzerland who followed him back to Iran [where] they lived together."

It was not possible to confirm Farid's mountain-execution report or the Shah's alleged bisexuality. It is also impossible to determine whether Farid is correct in saying that everyone is afraid to have gay sex now or whether Mansour is correct is saying everyone still does so.

According to the *Spartacus International Gay Guide,* Kuwaiti men in search of sex with each other have long met in the saunas of the Kuwait Hilton and the Kuwait SAS Hotel—two of the hotels where Iraqi forces held American hostages—and at the beaches behind the Carlton Hotel, in front of the Sheraton Hotel and near Central Park.

"In accordance with the Islamic Shariah code, homosexuality between men is prohibited and is punishable by death," the book reported. "One occasionally hears of executions; however, all cases that have become known were also mixed up with political crimes, which leads us to suppose that political opponents are denounced as homosexuals."

The national GLAS chapter in Washington has no Kuwaitis among its members who are willing to talk to reporters.

"Most had a very hard time contacting us in the first place," said GLAS founder Ramzi Zakharia. "They are way into the closet and most have never [read the gay press] and wouldn't know what [it] is."

ILGA also has no contact with open Kuwaiti gays or lesbians. Phone calls to Kuwait itself did not go through during the preparation of this report.

Homosexuality is not illegal in Iraq, according to *Spartacus* and ILGA's *Pink Book.* "The attitude toward gayness of the average Iraqi citizen is about as ambivalent as it could get," *Spartacus* said. "On the one hand, gays who have been exposed are...damned while on the other hand, secret gay activity is going on throughout the male population... There are no magazines, bars, etc. in Iraq."

Again, neither GLAS nor ILGA knew of any lesbian and gay Iraqis who would talk to a reporter.

Meanwhile, Amnesty in December published a report on human rights violations allegedly committed by Iraqi soldiers occupying Kuwait, including widespread incidents of male rape, especially of young men.

The report also detailed such tortures as "inserting bottle necks, sometimes when broken, into the rectum; tying a string around the penis and pulling it tightly; [and] pumping

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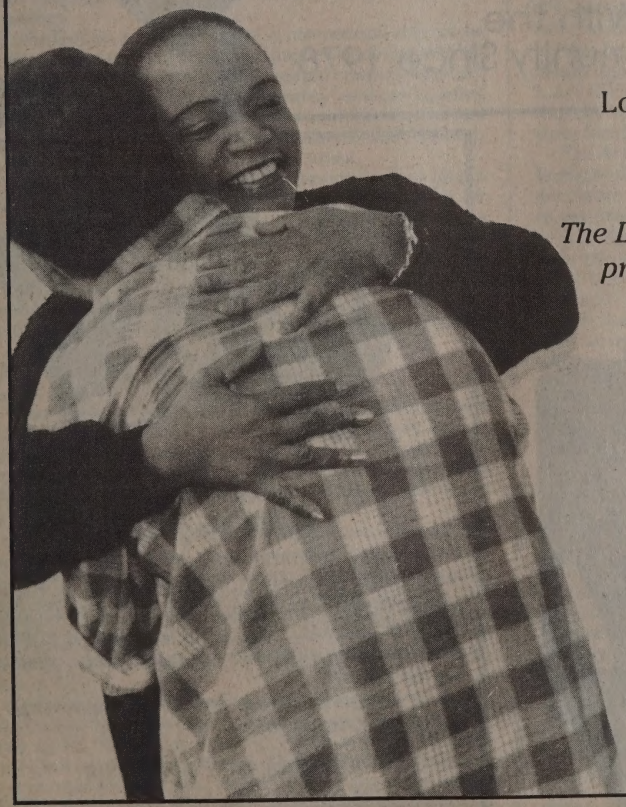

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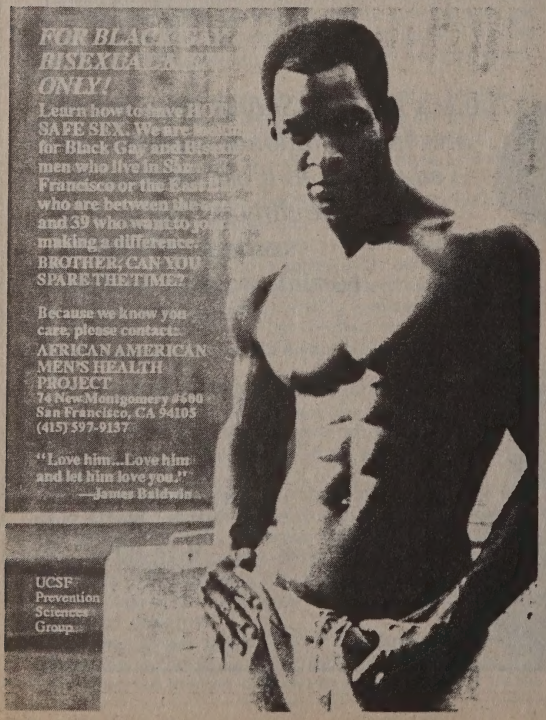

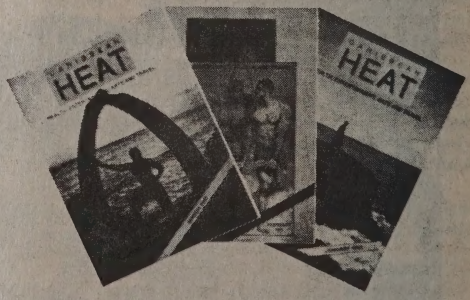

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air using a pipe through the anus, particularly of young boys."

"It's the same appalling shit," said Amnesty's Miller. "The horrific rape of men detailed in this report is consistent with what we see all over the world—South America, Southeast Asia, and it's quite common to document this in the Mideast."

The social situation for homosexual men throughout the Arab and Moslem world would appear to be consistent with the themes presented by immigrants in this report, but punishment for gay sex acts varies widely—from none (officially) to short jail terms to execution.

Gay and lesbian sex is illegal in Saudi Arabia but "secret gay activity" is the norm, according to the *Spartacus Guide*, which directs tourists specifically to the markets and shopping areas in the city of Jedda.

Gay sex in Syria is punishable by three years in prison, Yet men reportedly meet at a bar, a coffee shop, a hotel, two movie theaters, six saunas, a park, a public garden and two streets.

The smaller nations of the area—Oman, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and the reunited Yemens—also have varied "gay" life and varying anti-gay laws.

Oman permits three months to three years imprisonment for gay *or lesbian* sex but sources say homosexuality is tolerated as long as it is confined to private spheres. Gay sex is illegal in Qatar, but is said to be widespread—albeit it in utter secrecy.

In the U.A.E., men who engage in homosexual acts can be sentenced to 14 years in prison and anyone who admits to being gay—whether he acts upon his sexual orientation or not—is deemed "at odds with public morality" and can be jailed for two years. Still, it is considered normal for married and unmarried men to have sex with each other. Dubai, the capital, has six mixed bars and two cruisy areas.

Yemen (as distinguished from the former People's Democratic Republic of Yemen) formerly had a death penalty for "haad" offenses, which, according to Amnesty, "are offenses against the divine will." Prior to reunification, the penal code required that Shariah executions be done "without drama or torture"; for example: "beheading or shooting...although stoning may be used in some instances." Men in San'a, the capital, meet at three hotels and on three cruisy streets.

An immigrant from Egypt describes the situation there for gays and lesbians as "life-threatening." Hamdy Adham says clandestine gay organizing has begun in Cairo and activists may soon invite "informal and discreet" support from outside the country. But homosexuality is taboo, he said, and the word 'gay' is considered "an insult."

Homosexuality is not illegal in Egypt, according to Amnesty, but it is not talked about and social control is rigid except in Alexandria. *Spartacus* says it is normal for Egyptian men to have gay sex both before and during marriage, and lists as pick-up spots a coffee shop, a restaurant, four hotels and six cruisy areas in Alexandria; and two bars, three restaurants, a hotel, six saunas, three beaches, and seven cruisy spots in Cairo.

Boston's Tarazi, who has traveled extensively in Egypt, says he found gay life there more open than elsewhere in the Arab world. "It's a huge country," Tarazi said, "so you don't have the nosy-neighbor attitude. There are bars that cater to gays in most major hotels. I would call the gay scene almost 'thriving and open' but Arab gays would never press the situation."

L.A.'s Agrama agreed. "There is a climate of permissibility in Cairo, although the religious people are getting more powerful," she said. "But you go out at night, there's liquor, it's a wonderful place for nightlife. No one comes home until dawn."

For men, Agrama said, "there's a distinction...between active and passive sex. If you're passive: that's looked down on. But the aggressor can be straight and then this is okay. Well, it's not exactly condoned, but if you're going to do it, it's much better to be the active party."

Libya, which reported its first AIDS case last October, has some clandestine meeting places in Tripoli, including bars, movie theaters and cruisy areas. But the Shariah code punishes homosexual acts by throwing the performer of the acts down from the highest level. Alternatively, the civil penal code calls for three to five years in prison.

With the exception of Israel, the story throughout the remaining nations of North Africa and the Middle East is repetitious. Country by country, the reports from immigrants, *Spartacus*, ILGA and Amnesty blur into common themes. The Islamic concept of tossing homosexuals off mountains, etc. is particularly ubiquitous.

It's no wonder that Arab men and women who somehow realize they are "gay"—despite the virtual non-existence of the concept in their cultures—may attempt to emigrate to or study in the West.

But with the fear of total ostracization and/or the death penalty behind them, most Arab and Moslem emigrants still apparently stay close to their closet doors. As with millions of Westerners in more enlightened societies, the homophobic cultural and religious baggage is apparently just too heavy.

"An Egyptian friend of mine who came here about a month ago won't talk to anyone [about being gay]," said L.A.'s Elkholy, "They go into a society that is more open but they are still afraid that somehow coming out will go back to their families at home."

For Arab and Moslem gays and lesbians who never left home, multiply the fear level by a factor of about 100, immigrants say. And, that is the bottom line on gays and lesbians in the Arab and Moslem world.

...Along with the near-universal availability of "straight" men who are willing to engage in insertive anal intercourse,

Is this hypocritical? Or a different world? Are these "straight" men really "gays" who are overdue for liberation? Or are humans by nature bisexual, with Arab and Moslem men better tuned into reality than Westerners? Probably all of the above.

Robert Bray, public information director for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and an officer in ILGA, says: "Certainly cultural differences make the definition and the shading of homosexuality different among peoples.

"But I see the real question as one of sexual freedom: and sexual freedom transcends cultures. The movement for gay freedom is [about] affirmation and visibility and living your life in truth.

"My personal experience in Morocco and southern Spain is that gay men—I didn't meet any lesbians—were somewhat stunned at the concept of gay political organizing and societal visibility, but at the same time they were envious—that we could walk around and be visible and tell our parents we are gay," Bray said.

"At least one guy expressed a longing to just be gay and not have to live within the prescribed sexual behaviors, and he said there were others like him.

"I believe this longing is universal.

"I sense it in Moslem culture and elsewhere around the world when people see me expressing joy at being openly gay."

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BLK NEWS

Five Black Men Quit NAPWA Board Charging Racism

By Mark Haile and Mikolas Crews

WASHINGTON—Five of the six African-Americans on the board of directors of the National Association of People With AIDS (NAPWA) resigned *en masse,* charging both the board and its executive director with racism and sexism while operating "as a dysfunctional body for far too long."

In their collective resignation, first made public at the National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference in February, treasurer H. Alexander Robinson, boardmembers Jerome Boyce, Paul Kelly and Floyd C. Dunn and member-at-large Van R. Nelson said board minutes had been altered, and that executive director Michael Merdian, had failed to disclose fully, financial records, particularly for programs aimed at communities of color.

In addition, they singled out NAPWA board president, Earl Thomas for his "lack of leadership...The condescension from our board secretary, Sara Anne Powers and the absolute disrespectful comments and actions of alternate member, Peter Utildenbosch, present far too many obstacles for us to overcome."

Actually, only four of the boardmembers submitted individual resignations to the board of directors, as requested by NAPWA after the organization rejected their Feb. 18 "Statement of Collective Resignation." Bart Casimir, whose name appears on the original letter in solidarity with his fellow African-American boardmembers and served as their spokesperson, decided to stay on and fight racism at NAPWA head on, announcing his candidacy for the presidency.

"I never intended to resign and the other members knew it," Casimir told BLK. "I support the other African-Americans's decision to resign. However, there's a war against AIDS, and I can fight the battle with NAPWA."

Current NAPWA president Earl Thomas said that charges of racism were "ridiculous." NAPWA, the largest organization in the world made up wholly of people living with HIV, had among its 29 voting and alternate board members, seven people of color, as were three of the five members at the executive committee prior of the resignations.

Jack Markham, a member of NAPWA's executive committee, told BLK that "the resignation letter is not accurate" and said "I'm not upset about the departure of the five African-Americans, but I am upset about the viciousness of the resignation letter."

Boyce stated, "We did not want to do this, but we no longer had the health to argue these things four and five times." He pointed out as an example an incident of cultural insensitivity with how NAPWA handled Burroughs-Wellcome, the manufacturers of AZT, on a national survey of drug distribution which failed to take into consideration the diversity of methods necessary to reach people of color with AIDS.

Robinson said that the organization is not grassroots enough to reach all the people fighting HIV disease. "The mode of communication is through a computer system, and a newsletter that caters toward educated gay white males," he told BLK. "My energy is needed in the black community. I decided not to expend energy on fighting. Instead, I'm out helping all colors of people on a one-to-one outreach program. I go wherever I'm needed."

But Markham countered, stating, "I think Alexander Robinson wants a black NAPWA."

Casimir says he wonders to what degree personalities may have inflamed the conflicts.

The "Statement of Collective Resignation" cited specific decisions by the board such as reducing its size, in the process eliminating demographic representation and "special interest" groups. In addition, mention of the failure of the executive director to pay attention to needs of African-Americans living with HIV.

Out Activists in Costa Rica Materialize Quickly

By Rex Wockner

SAN JOSÉ, Costa Rica—Unlike in many developing nations—where there are often only one or two out activists—Costa Rica's lesbian and gay movement is taking off in all directions as activists emerge left and right.

Among new developments is the expansion of the fight Against AIDS Foundation hotline, which is staffed daily from 6 to 10 p.m. The switchboard now offers not only AIDS information, but details on gay happenings, and counseling for couples, persons having identity crises, and those facing sexual-orientation harassment at home or work.

In another development, the Garbo Theatre presented *Torch Song Trilogy* in February—the first gay film ever to show in a public cinema. It's called *Love, Strange Love* in Spanish. All showings sold out.

The film was sponsored by the Costa Rican College of Psychologists and provoked no opposition, according to *Confidencial,* the new lesbian and gay newspaper, which took advantage of the screenings to distribute issue 5 of the paper.

At a forum following one of the screenings, Dr. Jacobo Schifter, openly gay author of the only Costa Rican book about homosexuality, objected to the Spanish title of the film, saying "it suggested something hidden."

Meanwhile, *Confidencial* itself is adopting a more activist slant. The March issue demanded that the government open a formal investigation of the Hotel California in the popular resort town of Puntarenas.

Confidencial portrayed the hotel as a center of male prostitution where the young sex workers know nothing of AIDS or safe sex. The newspaper said most of the hotel's guests are foreign men who pay in dollars to choose sex partners aged 18-24 from a catalogue that shows them nude alongside the measurements of their penises.

"[The foreigners] come for a month at a time," *Confidencial* reported. "They say the orgies are famous and that drugs flow freely."

In an editorial, the newspaper wrote: "It's not right that our lifestyle where we choose to share our love with another man should be taken as something purely sexual and used for business and exploitation of the body. We deserve respect and the right to choose."

Confidencial is also hosting meetings aimed at organizing Costa Rica's first gay-pride parade this summer.

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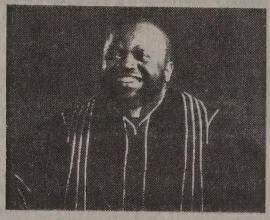

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30 Cops Raid Fundraiser; Lesbian Activist Held

By Rex Wockner

LIMA, Peru—About 30 heavily armed police officers raided an AIDS fundraiser March 16 and detained 10 transvestites and activists, including the executive director of the Movimiento Homosexual de Lima, Rebeca Sevilla.

The event, held at the Zeus discotheque, was a benefit for Via Libre, a private organization which assists HIV-positives.

"Although there have been numerous threats and actions against Peru's gay community, this is the first time security forces have acted against an AIDS-related event," said Enrique Bossio, a MHOL spokesman. "As Peru's human-rights situation continues to deteriorate, we fear the gains made by MHOL will slowly be chipped away."

Reached by telephone, Sevilla said MHOL is investigating legal action against the police. "This raid was illegal," Sevilla said. "No one at the police station would take responsibility for authorizing this raid, they gave us no reason why the raid took place, and no charges were filed against those of us who were detained."

During the three hours Sevilla was held at the police station, "I was very critical of them," she said. "The threatened to charge me with obstructing the police...but eventually I just said I was leaving and I left."

When MHOL's attorney went to the police station the next day, all documentation related to the raid had disappeared, Sevilla said.

There has been a partial suspension of constitutional rights in Peru because of the increasingly civil-war-like atmosphere. Police have been given expanded powers to search for drugs, terrorists, guns and bombs, Sevilla said. But police announced no such intentions during the disco raid.

The latest events come amid escalating murders of transvestites and effeminate gay men in rural areas by members of the Maoist Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement and Shining Path guerrillas.

At least 60 such murders occurred in the past year, according to MHOL.

Lesbians, Gay Men Help Elect Kansas City Mayor

KANSAS CITY—The first black mayor in the history of Kansas City was elected March 26 with an impressive assist by the lesbian and gay community. Emanuel Cleaver won by only 6,215 votes over Bob Lewellen, well known as a homophobic, sexist fundamentalist.

In a twist that was not discovered until after the election, it was revealed that Lewellen actually owns a lesbian bar known as the "Lick-A-T-Split," although as a city councilmember he voted against a gay and lesbian rights bill. "You cannot equate them with blacks, women or any other established, normal way of life," Lewellen was quoted as saying.

Lewellen ran anti-gay campaign ads on radio every hour, in contrast to mayor-elect Cleaver, who has promised to initiate civil rights legislation that would prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Cleaver, also a former member of the city council, had a less than consistent record on gay issues, prompting ACT-UP/KC to criticize the endorsements of Cleaver by the Human Rights Project, the Kansas City lesbian and gay political action organization.

New York's Mayor Booed for Marching with Gays

By Rex Wockner

NEW YORK—Mayor David Dinkins had the opportunity to experience homophobia first-hand March 16. He was booed along the entire route of the St. Patrick's Day Parade because he chose to march with a lesbian and gay group.

The New York Times described parade-watchers' actions as a "rolling chorus of taunts and epithets." At one point, two open cans of beer were hurled at the mayor and he got wet.

"It was like marching in Birmingham, Alabama" during the civil-rights movement, Dinkins said. "I knew there would be deep emotions, but I did not anticipate the cowards in the crowd. There was far, far too much negative comment."

Dinkins opted to march with the Irish Gay and Lesbian Organization after the group was initially denied participation in the parade by its organizers, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, an Irish fraternal group. The Hibernians said there is a years-long waiting list for parade entries and that this year's parade was at its maximum allowable length.

However, Dinkins suspected that homophobia was at the root of the rejection and Dinkins threatened to boycott the parade if the group was not allowed to join. The mayor also offered to pay police overtime so the parade could be longer.

In the end, the Irish gays were not given their own slot, but were invited to march with a small division of the Manhattan chapter of the Hibernians. Dinkins gave up the mayor's traditional spot at the head of the parade to march with gays and lesbians.

In the same vein, New York Governor Mario Cuomo marched with a group of children in wheelchairs who also initially had been denied a slot in the parade.

New York Catholic Cardinal John O'Connor coldly greeted the mayor during the parade when the contingent passed his viewing point on the cathedral steps. Parade organizers in the official reviewing stand, however, stood and turned their backs to the major as he passed by.

At the conclusion of the parade, when Cardinal O'Connor was told that Dinkins had been showered with beer, the prelate told reporters, "I asked people [in my sermon] that there be no violence, either oral, physical or even mental... We don't return disrespect with disrespect."

Catholic Advocates for Gay and Lesbian Rights, based in Chicago, strongly denounced the Cardinal's comments. Catholic Advocates spokesman Rick Garcia says his group is outraged that O'Connor feels Dinkins' choice to march with gays was "disrespectful."

Illinois Prison Relents; OKs Interracial Gay Novel

GALESBURG, Ill.—After a prolonged administrative battle, the Illinois Department of Corrections has rescinded its ban of an interracial gay novel from state prisons.

Last year, the Department ruled that Larry Duplechan's novel *Eight Days A Week* was obscene and had "no serious literary, artistic, political merit or scientific value." Nic Howell, a spokesperson for the state Corrections Department, told BLK last year that the book had been seized "for the protection of the inmate" so that he would not "become stigmatized."

The prisoner who had ordered the novel through the mail contacted the publisher, Sasha Alyson, who wrote to the Department that "by no definition of the law is this book obscene." Following adverse publicity both in Illinois and in gay newspapers nationwide, the Department of Corrections relented and allowed the prisoner to receive the book.

This is a clear case of a government agency that thought it could get away with something because nobody was looking," noted Alyson. "We're heartened that, at least in this case, it was so easy to score a victory against homophobia."

NCBLG Changes Focus

WASHINGTON—The National Coalition on Black Lesbians and Gays (NCBLG), the largest and oldest Black Lesbian and Gay organization in the United States, has announced an end to its association with local chapters and a reorganization into a national lobbying group.

Co-chairs A. Billy S. Jones and Judith Fisher said in a letter mailed to supporters that the organization expects to complement rather than compete with existing groups in the District, offering assistance on lobbying Congress local groups and recruiting a national speakers bureau.

The coalition will continue to be a national membership organization. Income for the NCBLG has been shrinking for years, from over $100,000 in 1987 to under $15,000 in 1991. An outstanding debt of $7,000 still needs to be settled.

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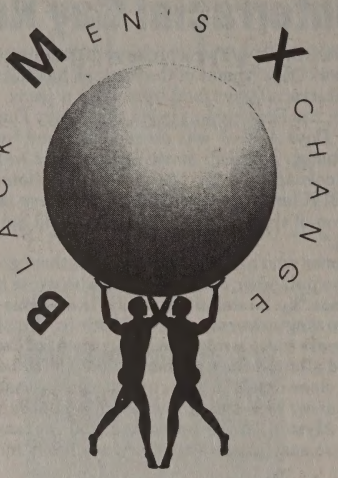

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Sullivan Calls for More Health Aid to Africa

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Two top U.S. officials who recently returned from a two-week mission to Africa have called for more U.S. aid to African nations to combat AIDS, malaria, and the exploding birth rate.

Secretary Louis Sullivan of the Department of Health and Human Services and Administrator Ronald Roskens of the U.S. Agency for International Development led a delegation in January to the Ivory Coast, Malawi, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

In a report to President Bush, Sullivan and Roskens said U.S. assistance has helped improve child health in Africa, but more aid is needed.

The delegation said malaria, known as the "forgotten disease," is considered the "foremost health challenge" in Africa. The disease kills one million African children each year, making it the leading killer of children in many African nations. Of the 110 million malaria cases reported annually, 90 million occur in Africa.

Sullivan and Roskens recommended more aid to combat malaria, including research into the strains that are resistant to chloroquine treatment.

AIDS is rapidly becoming a major killer of African children. During the 1980s, about 500,000 infants in Africa were born with the HIV infection, and by the end of the 1990s, there will be an additional ten million HIV-infected children in Africa, the delegation said.

Also, five million to ten million children under ten years of age are expected to become orphans in Africa during the 1990s because of the death of one or both parents from AIDS.

"Behavior change is the key to breaking the AIDS transmission chain," the report said. "U.S. programs should support additional interventions to promote behavior change, encourage social marketing of condoms and the control of sexually transmitted diseases and support research on other means to reduce HIV transmission, including vaccines."

But if Africans could stem the exploding birth rate, the group said, perhaps many of the continent's health problems, especially children's very survival, could be improved.

"Everywhere we went, countries' attempts to provide primary health and prenatal care to women and children were outstripped and overwhelmed by the sheer volume of pregnant women and children needing care. The impact of high fertility rates on child survival is manifest primarily by malnutrition, which is a major contributor to death in most countries we visited," the report said.

The delegation said it observed "only limited and mostly recent acceptance of the importance of limiting the number of children per family."

The group said the United States should intensify assistance for improved reproductive health and family planning in Africa, including efforts to widen the choice of contraceptive methods.

Tiffany Takes Gulf Title

SAN ANTONIO—Tiffany R. was crowned the new "Miss Gulf Coast USA" March 22, before a capacity crowd at the Bonham Exchange.

Tiffany, who came to San Antonio by way of Florida, beat out contestants Amber Nix, Corrina Hall, Danielle Thomas and Syreeta Monroe to gain the title, being held for the first time at the Bonham. The pageant was judged a great success.

Boston Lesbians of Color Boycott Women's Club

By Mark Haile

BOSTON—Asian and African-American lesbians have joined forces in a boycott of a Boston club, to demonstrate the anger they share at what they have said are "too many incidents" of racism and insensitivity according to a story in *Gay Community News.*

The boycott against Indigo, a popular woman's bar in Cambridge, was called by the Alliance of Massachusetts Asian Lesbians and Gay Men (AMALGM) and the Association for Right On Sisters (AFROS) on the basis of incidents dating back to the summer of 1990. The boycott began on March 14.

The staff of Indigo denied the charges. Assistant Manager M'Liss Calzaretta stated, "Our staff and clientele are so racially diverse, it's ridiculous to even make these racism accusations."

Among the issues that prompted the boycott were a carding incident, a woman of color being barred from the club following an argument with another woman of color who was not similarly barred, and claims that Indigo has not responded to correspondence sent to the management concerning a resolution of the conflict.

Andrea Boyer, also employed at Indigo, stated "There will never be a racist person on my staff because I wouldn't stand for it. If anyone showed signs of racism, they wouldn't work for me anymore."

Jacquelyn Ching Black, one of the two women involved in the disputed ID situation, asserted that as the male bouncer was pushing her and her companion down the steps, another Indigo employee hollered, "Why don't you go back where you came from?"

Among the boycott organizers' demands are that Indigo must begin a visible, strong anti-racism policy, including more women of color included in the bar's advertising and gallery showings, and sensitizing the staff in terms of cultural and racial issues.

Although the two sides have very different accounts of the events leading up to the boycott, women of color are being featured on advertising for the bar and a number of women of color as entertainers as well.

Mysterious Newspaper Slams Black Gay Men

SAN FRANCISCO—A newspaper has appeared around San Francisco's Tenderloin district, the *Homeless Times,* apparently of African-American origin, filled with anti-gay references according to the *Bay Area Reporter.*

The editor, Myrnalene Nabih, makes the claim that "...homosexuality will no longer be accepted in the New World Order." The paper makes a reference to HIV disease being the direct result of "society ignoring sexual laws."

The newspaper and its staff are not widely known to organizations working with the homeless in San Francisco, which has one of the most visible lesbian and gay homeless populations in the country.

Another writer in the *Homeless Times* states, "I see a very large difference between my black American brothers in San Francisco and those in other cities in the U.S. How in the world can these black men walk around town and be proud of being gay? I read in Ann Landers where some of them wear panties."

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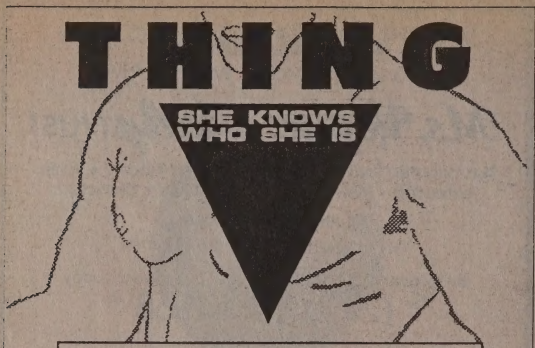

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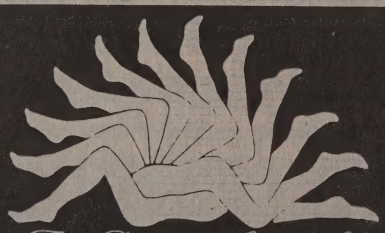

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Black Prof Wins Gay Nod

MACOMB, Ill.—Professor Gilbert Belles of Western Illinois University received an award from the Citizens for Gay Action in Chicago which includes a $1000 cash prize.

Professor Belles, who helped found the WIU Department of African American Studies, has been active both in the academic community and in the city of Macomb, Ill., where WIU is located.

Currently Professor of Recreation, Parks and Tourism Administration, Belles is the faculty advisor for the campus lesbian and gay support group, and past chair of the Department of African American Studies. Belles persuaded the university to include sexual orientation in non-discrimination policies.

He was honored as 1990 WIU Teacher of the Year for the College of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, as well as the WIU Faculty Excellence Award. Belles also serves on the McDonough County AIDS Awareness Panel.

Belles is only the second recipient of an award from the CGA.

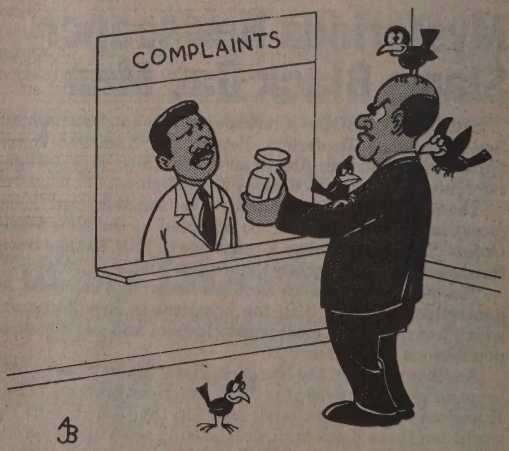
Center Opens in Brazil

BAHIA, Brazil—The Grupo Gay da Bahia opened its Pink Triangle Cultural Center on March 1 in the city of Salvador on the coast of northeast Brazil.

The restored building dates from the 18th century and is located in a fashionable section of the city near other cultural institutions and museums.

The facility boasts room for exhibitions, meetings and conferences. The "Triangulo Rosa" was initiated with a philatelic exhibition of stamps, postcards, postmarks and posters on AIDS from around the world. A new Brazilian stamp was issued to commemorate the Brazilian singing star Cazuza, the most prominent person in that country to have died from AIDS.

Dr. Luiz Mott, president of GGB, said "We wanted to call attention to this vital topic and to alert people about prevention of the worse epidemic of the century." The GGB is including an homage to Cazuza in the exhibit, a prelude to their second exhibition, which will feature stamps and postcards of famous lesbians and gay men, bisexuals and transvestites.



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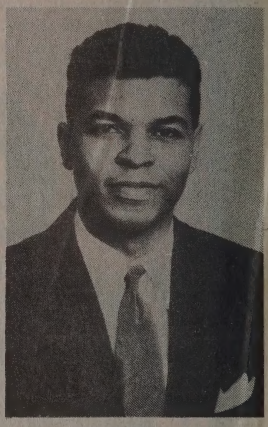
Lambda Appoints Paul Cothran to Director Post

NEW YORK—Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, the nation's oldest and largest organization dedicated to securing the legal rights of lesbians and gay men, has chosen Paul E. Cothran as its new Development Director.

Cothran will oversee all aspects of Lambda's fundraising efforts, including corporate and foundation solicitations, individuals and special events. The Development Director will work closely with Lambda's Board of Directors, Development Committee, and Executive and Deputy Directors in determining development goals and strategy to achieve the financial support required to enable Lambda to meet its program goals.



Paul E. Cothran

A key component in the Development Director's plan will be to broaden the national scope of Lambda's fundraising activities. Lambda's present annual budget is $1.6 million. The organization has offices in New York City and Los Angeles.

Cothran was chosen after a nationwide search involving more than 60 candidates. He replaces Jerl Surratt, who returned to a private fund-raising firm after four years with Lambda.

Cothran comes to Lambda with ten years of fundraising experience. Most recently, He served as Development Director for New York's Community Research Initiative. He is also the former Director for Corporate and Foundation Relations at Fordham University, and Director of Development for National Medical Fellowships, Inc.

"I'm excited about joining the staff of Lambda," stated Cothran. "Working within the legal system, we seek to foster change and educate people about the concerns and rights of lesbians and gay men. Discrimination and intolerance grow out of ignorance. I have always believed that whether you're dealing with issues of racism, sexism or homophobia, education and communication are our most potent weapons. Being forced to live your life as a lie, hiding in society's closet, is a great human tragedy. I think of the loneliness and pain. I look forward to the day when we are judged by our accomplishments, and not by gender, race or sexual orientation."

Cothran serves on the Board of Directors of The Fordham University Alumni Association. Recently he was elected President of the Board of Directors of the newly formed AIDS Treatment Data Network, Inc., (ATDN). ATDN's mission is to gather and disseminate information on treatments, clinical trials, support groups and service providers, to people with AIDS/HIV, their care-providers, clinicians, and industry.

"Lambda is extremely lucky to have a Development Director with Paul's proven talents and distinguished record," said Thomas B. Stoddard, Lambda's Executive Director. "Paul will significantly enhance Lambda's ability to serve lesbians, gay men and people with HIV throughout the nation."

Black M.D. to Head New AIDS Television Show

CHICAGO—Dr. Richard McDonald, has been selected to host a new monthly AIDS cable series called *HIV Update.* Produced by the Physicians Association for AIDS Care (PAAC), the show will debut May 9 in Chicago. Dr. McDonald, who is black, is medical director of the Howard Brown Memorial Clinic, the largest PWA service organization in the midwest.

The May premiere will include a documentary on special issues affecting African-American gays and bisexuals with HIV disease, a panel discussion by a panel of PWAs on their experiences with various drugs for the management of thrush, a report on the role of vitamins and minerals on the immune system and a demonstration of liquid nitrogen therapy for Kaposi's sarcoma lesions.

According to Gordon Nary, PAAC's executive director, the series will be available for syndication to approximately 70 top television markets throughout the United States.

The syndicated version of *HIV Update* will be co-produced with local PAAC chapters and PWA organizations in targeted cities. Funding for the co-production in New York, Miami, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Houston, and Washington D.C. has been provided by Janssen Pharmaceutica.

Dr. McDonald is a former journalist and a frequent guest on PAAC's AIDS Television Network (ATN). Many of the features on *HIV Update* are re-edited from the ATN telecasts which are broadcast by satellite to approximately 750 hospital and Red Cross sites throughout the United States and Canada. Special features will be co-produced for the specific cities in which the series is carried.

Each program will feature a monthly AIDS news update by Dr. McDonald who will also introduce various program segments which are targeted to healthcare professionals, persons with HIV disease, and the general public. *HIV Update* will focus on current standards of clinical care, as well as a variety of social, economic, and legal issues affecting access to appropriate healthcare.

"This interdisciplinary approach to the diverse challenges of the HIV epidemic can be of significant value to all healthcare professionals, patients, and the general public," said Dr. McDonald. "It is our hope that *HIV Update* will eventually play a major role in HIV education in every major city throughout the United States."

In June, *HIV Update* will feature a case study on histoplasmosis by Dr. Robert Murphy.

ACT-UP/NY Holds People of Color Conference

NEW YORK—ACT-UP/New York's People of Color Activist Conference, held March 22-24, brought together nearly 300 Asian/Pacific Islanders, American Indians, African-Americans and Latinos to discuss AIDS activism.

With the theme, "Challenging the AIDS Establishment," the conference was designed to explore alternative measures of confronting the AIDS crisis among people of color communities using each ethnic group's varied sociological, psychological and economical factors.

"It was an empowering, gratifying and emotional experience," said Mark Simmons, a black AIDS worker. "To look around the auditorium and see a sea of multicultural communities is something that I will always cherish."

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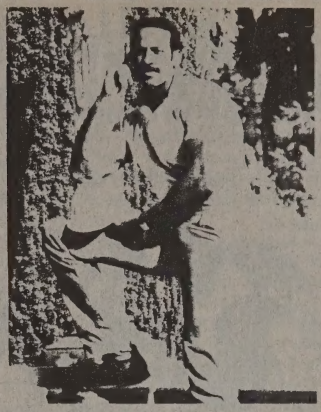

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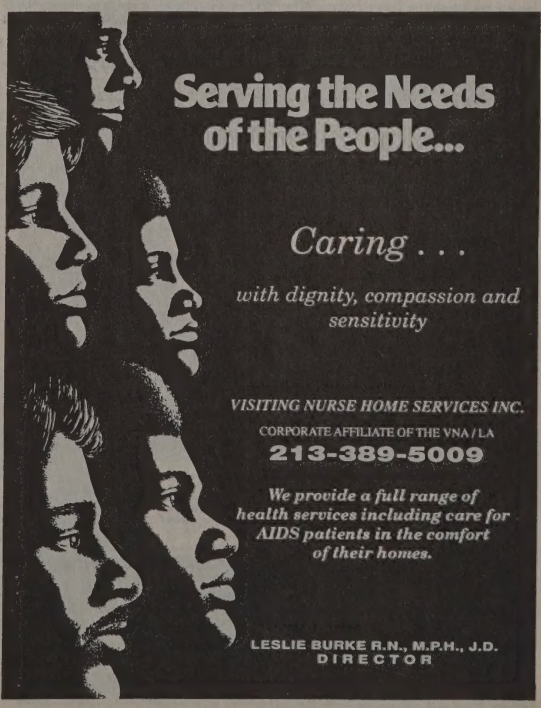
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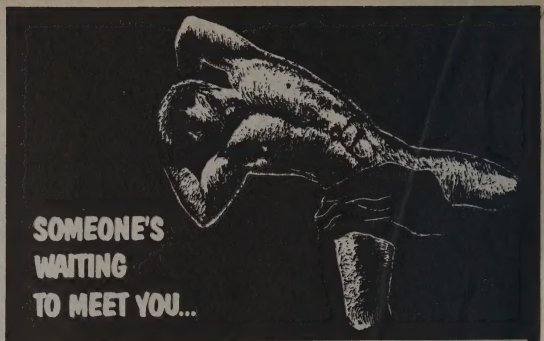

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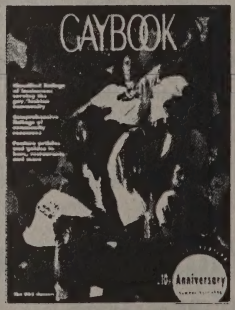

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New Philly Group to Help Lesbian, Gay Homeless

PHILADELPHIA—A program aimed at helping homeless lesbian and gay men has begun in Philadelphia. "Empty The Shelters," founded by Harvey Matthews, is being developed with assistance from a broad coalition of local organizations according to the *Philadelphia Gay News*.

Both gay and non-gay groups such as the local chapter of Dignity, an organization of lesbian and gay catholics; the Committee for Dignity and Fairness for the Homeless; the National Union of the Homeless, and Pennsylvania Jobs With Peace, have all contributed to the effort.

Matthews hopes eventually to provide emergency shelters for lesbians and gay men, who he says have suffered indignities ranging from verbal and physical harassment to physical violence and rape.

Many facilities for the homeless are less than willing to deal with clients who are, or even might be HIV-positive, claiming they either don't have the means to provide for specialized care or health emergencies, or assume that their lesbian and gay clients will sexually come on to the other clients.

"I think we really need to have a shelter system that addresses the specific needs of gays and lesbians, a place where our people will feel safe," said Matthews.

Recognizing that lesbians and gays are among the growing numbers of the nation's homeless, is more widespread than ever before, yet Matthew's efforts may be a first in terms of an organization started by a gay man of color dealing specifically with that issue.

State Trooper Convicted of Sodomy in Kentucky

PIKEVILLE, Ky. (AP)—A fired state trooper and a former Pike County school official were convicted last month of fourth-degree sodomy. But ex-Pikeville Trooper Jerome Martin said the state police pressed for the conviction to avoid being sued for firing him.

"I think that everybody's concerns are about being liable for what happens in regards to a lawsuit," said Martin, 29, who was convicted along with retired Johns Creek High School Assistant Principal Tim Branham, 55.

Martin, who was the only black trooper at the Pikeville post, claimed the charges were racially motivated and has appealed his dismissal in Franklin Circuit Court. He said he was considering appealing the verdict as well.

The trial in Pike District Court lasted two and a half days. The jury deliberated for an hour before returning its verdict. Each man was fined $500, the maximum allowable for the Class A misdemeanor. The jury could also have given each up to one year in jail.

Doris Ray, the mother of another Pikeville trooper, testified that she saw Branham performing a sex act on Martin in the trooper's cruiser last Memorial Day weekend while Martin was on duty. Martin admitted to being in the cruiser with Branham, but he said he was merely taking a burglary report from Branham.

On Jan. 11, a state police trial board found Martin guilty of the act and of lying about it to his superiors. He was dismissed, and he and Branham were arrested the following week on state police warrants.

CDC February Statistics on AIDS Cases in U.S.

	White (not Latino)		Black (not Latino)		Latino		Asian/Pacific Islander		American Indian/ Alaskan Native		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
MALE												
Gay and bisexual contact	69,482	80	16,612	44	10,490	46	761	81	122	63	97,687	66
Straight IV drug use	5,595	6	13,278	35	8,855	39	31	3	22	11	27,854	19
Gay and bisexual contact, and IV drug use	6,324	7	2,952	8	1,572	7	21	2	32	16	10,916	7
Hemophilia and coagulation disorder	1,163	1	95	0	113	0	17	2	8	4	1,400	1
Straight contact	606	1	2,558	7	373	2	9	1	2	1	3,553	2
Receipt of blood transfusion, blood components or tissue	1,707	2	352	1	208	1	44	5	2	1	2,319	2
Other and undetermined	1,845	2	1,739	5	1,149	5	52	5	10	5	4,841	3
Male subtotal	86,722	100	37,586	100	22,760	100	935	100	204	100	148,570	100
FEMALE												
IV drug use	1,734	40	4,822	57	1,698	51	14	17	17	52	8,301	51
Hemophilia and coagulation disorder	27	1	5	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	34	0
Straight contact	1,294	30	2,755	32	1,250	37	29	35	8	24	5,354	33
Receipt of blood transfusion, blood components or tissue	946	22	304	4	183	5	27	32	4	12	1,468	9
Other and undetermined	302	7	621	7	226	7	14	17	4	12	1,173	7
Female subtotal	4,303	100	8,507	100	3,359	100	84	100	33	100	16,330	100
Total	91,025		46,093		26,119		1,019		237		164,900	

Source: "Adult/Adolescent AIDS Cases by Sex, Exposure Category and Race/Ethnicity Reported through February 1991, United States," U.S. Centers for Disease Control. HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, March 1991

BLK ARTS

THEATER

New Lesbian Play at GLCSC

Rainbow Repertory Theatre brings *Pigeons on a Couch* by Melanie Nelson to the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center weekends through April 21.

Deirdre Boddie-Henderson and Nicole Hill play former lovers and current roommates who might just be the last to know they're still lovers. Tia Sinclair and Pamela Sneed play their new loves who find themselves on the sidelines more than they like.

The play has been hearlded as an admirable first effort for Melanie Nelson, and called an accurate depiction of real life situations—sometimes too much so, albeit in a humorous way.

'Big Butt Girls' in San Diego

Bay area performance artist Rhodessa Jones brought her acclaimed solo work, *Big Butt Girls, Hard Headed Women,* to the Sushi Performance Gallery in San Diego.

Jones's pieces on women in real life situations in the city and county jails are true to life; based on Jones's work in actual jail facilities in the Bay Area.

Direction and music was provided by Idris Ackamoor, who with Jones also act as the artistic directors of Cultural Odyssey. The next venue for Ackamoor, Jones and her brother, noted dancer Bill T. Jones, is *Perfect Courage,* set to make its debut at Festival 2000 in San Francisco.

After more than 150 people above capacity sought tickets for Saturday night's performance, a second show was added for 10 p.m. that night.

Michelle Parkerson as she appears in Gallery of Greats calendar.

MOVIES

Parkerson Gets Calendar Honor

African-American independent filmmakers were saluted in the 1991 Gallery of Greats, which is displaying portraits of the twelve men and women honored at the California Afro-American Museum in Los Angeles through Feb 3 before going on a national tour. One of the role models chosen is none other than Michelle Parkerson, of whom they stated, "...Parkerson's subjects are diverse—from jazz singer Betty Carter to male impersonator Storme De Larverie to poet/author Audre Lorde ..." Seems the Gallery of Greats forgot to mention one important quality that Parkerson shared with her subjects that makes them birds of a feather.

MUSIC

Marva Hicks in Excellent Debut

By D.J. Marius

Polydor Records has signed an incredible new talent, and she has great potential for music stardom. The self-titled debut, *Marva Hicks* (Polydor 847 209-2) is excellent. Hicks uses her distinctive voice to blend different musical styles, ranging from smoothed-out chanteuse (on the first single, "Never Been In Love Before") to an aggressive edge (the jammin' "What Is Love").

The album's producers, including **Nick Martinelli, Chuckii Booker** and **Stevie Wonder,** also contribute to the contrast in styles, Her passionate duet with Wonder, "Strong Is Our Love," highlights their professional relationship, which began when Hicks toured with him as a back-up singer. Before that, the Howard University graduate toured for two-and-a-half years with **Lena Horne**'s Broadway show.

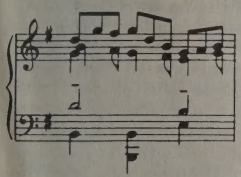
Other standouts include "I Got You Where I Want," "Never Say Never" and the album's best cut, a pulsating lesson in love and independence, "One Good Reason."

Predicated on the strong, assured vocal of **Durga McBroom** (named after the Hindu goddess universal mother), a recent dance release is worth mentioning. The self-titled *Blue Pearl* (Big Life/Mercury 847 405-4) teams McBroom with ex-Killing Joke member Youth, for a debut that has generated lots of interest on both sides of the Atlantic. The first single, "Naked In The Rain," topped the British charts and also raised some heads stateside, This particular track has the hi-energy sound of much of Europe's dance music.

Many other cuts on the album are strong songs in their own right, in addi-

tion to having incredible remix potential. The best of these include "Little Brother," "Down To You," and "Alive." Also, check out "Rollover" (especially the righteous *a capella* version).

The new film by Mario Van Peebles, *New Jack City,* has been setting box office records, in addition to generating



media attention for a few riots involving crowds who could not get in to see the movie. A powerful tale of street hustlers and fast living, the film addresses current living conditions in many American inner cities.

The music chosen for the original soundtrack (Giant/Reprise 9 24409-4) tries to capture the essence of the movie. Some well-known names, as well as promising new talents, show up including **Keith Sweat, Johnny Gill** and rapper **Ice T,** who has a starring role in the film. The album's best track is a medley that reworks R&B classics "For the Love of Money" and "Living for the City" by **Troop** and **Levert,** with a rap by **Queen Latifah.** A new group, Color Me Bad, scores with "I Wanna Sex You Up," which is starting to get radio airplay.

For those of you on the jazz tip, Washington, D.C.-based singer and pianist **Shirley Horn** has released a brilliant new album, *You Won't Forget Me* (Verve/PolyGram 847 482-2). On this particular project, she utilizes an excellent cast of guest soloists: harmonica ace **Toots Thielemans, Wynton** and **Branford Marsalis,** and none other than **Miles Davis.**

Horn's soft, romantic vocal style encompasses the passion of the greatest female jazz singers, although she recorded her first album in 1960, she has mostly preferred to stick close to D.C., performing in local clubs. Known on the New York jazz scene and in the jazz capitals of Europe, she now seems poised for much wider recognition in the U.S.

This is a definite addition to your CD collection, containing an intimate, sophisticated collection of songs. The best of these include "Beautiful Love," "The Music That Makes Me Dance," and the title track.

SOUNDCHECKS: If you remember five guys singing five-part harmony in the film *Lean On Me,* you remember hearing the group **Riff** for probably the first time. Their self-titled debut album (SBK Records) has just been released. The first single, "Ny Heart Is Failing Me," showcases their harmonies and other vocal talents in a great way. Ranging in age from 19 to 21, the New Jersey natives certainly appeal to younger music fans, but may appeal to more sophisticated listeners as well.

Lately, much attention has been given to a growing number of young jazz musicians dedicated to the jazz purist tradition. Some better known members of this group include bassist **Charnett Moffet,** pianist **Marcus Roberts** and trumpeter **Roy Hargrove.** Jazz saxophonist **Kenny Garrett** has released his second album, *African Exchange Student,* (Atlantic) continuing this tradition, This is a straight ahead, synthesizer-free jazz set, with five of the nine compositions composed by Garrett. Some talented sidemen, including bassist Ron Carter and pianist Mulgrew Miller, offer up some culture of their own.

BOOKS

Lambda Offers Guide to Decade

The Lambda Book Report, the most prominent guide to lesbian and gay literature, has published a compilation of the most influential literary men and women of the past decade.

"Afro-Carribbean-American woman warrior, lesbian visionary, poet and prophet, cultural worker, cancer survivor and mother," Audre Lorde, was the sole person of color among the ten most influential writers, publishers and editors.

Other major influences of the past ten years, according to the publication, included Joseph Beam, editor of *In The Life,* poet Cheryl Clarke, science fiction writer Samuel R. Delany, poet Pat Parker and publisher Barbara Smith.

Mention was also made of the contributions by Dr. SDiane Bogus, Jewelle Gomez and June Jordan.

Among those who Lambda lauded as shapers of the '90s were Essex Hemphill, Cherry Muhanji, Melvin Dixon, Terri Jewell and Constance Lofton.

The Lambda Book Report is published by Deacon Maccubin, founder of Lambda Rising Bookstore and the Lambda Literary Awards.

DANCE

Phoenix Presents 'African Skies'

A week-long engagement of the Phoenix Dance Company of Leeds, England, was the definitive black performance of the British fall season.

The ten-year-old troupe of British-born dancers all of African descent made an ambitious attempt to present one evening devoted to the variety of African dance and music with "Under African Skies."

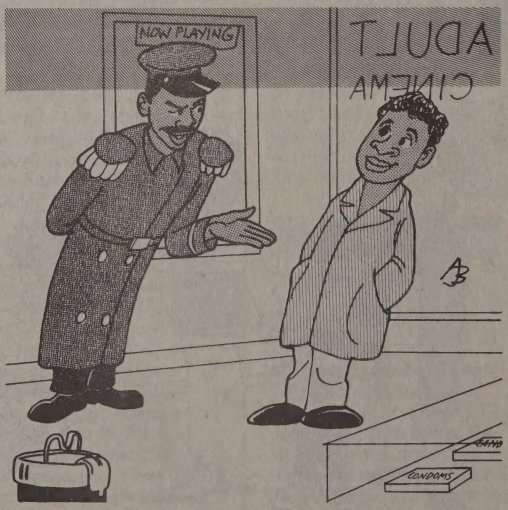
The performers provided a wide range of pieces based on the first-hand experiences of the first generation of Africans born in England. Among the first-ever performances was the premiere of *Tainted Love,* a dedication by Tbm Jobe to friends dead of AIDS.

"Are you getting more dental dams?"

Read My Lips

by Preston G. Guider

Sandra McDonald, Catlin Fulwood and **Reggie Williams** were among those who testified when the National Commission on AIDS visited Baltimore in December...Happy birthday to **Barbara Jordan** born Feb. 21...It was a big affair for **Bob Finney** and lover **Rob Clark**'s 18th anniversary. The instructions for parking were more confusing than tax forms, but for the hardy souls who got up the hill, there was a dee-lightful art gallery of Bob's prints of male nudes to please more than the aesthetics...**BWMT/Philadelphia** celebrated its 10th anniversary March 1-3...**Diahann Carroll** has taped several public service announcements for the **Shanti Foundation**...**Margaret Sloan-Hunter**, a veteran's veteran activist shared the bill with **Ayofemi Folayan** on March 16 at A Different Light in Silverlake. The evening turned into quite a salon, not to mention an unattached woman's dream...On top of her other activities, Ayofemi is starting a support group for artists. It begins in April and will meet on the third Saturday of the month...The Queens Tank of L.A.'s Hall of Justice Jail has been newly remodeled for spring, and the inmates have begun their return from temporary digs at Pitchess Honor Ranch a snowball's throw from the Grapevine. No word on how the fellas appreciated all that fresh air and freak snow storms that occured during their little jaunt to the country...Patrons of certain Silverlake sex clubs—you know, the ones *we* never frequent—should take note than undercover officers have been observing the coming and going of clientele at those establishments. We don't know if they are gathering data for a future raid, or if they are there to protect and serve gay men from possible gay bashings, or if they are there to satisfy their own longings, but be careful in any case...Regal is an apt word to describe the well-known African-American lesbians at the recent OutWrite '91 in SF...Editor **Rose Fennell**, poet **Cheryl Clarke**, writer **Sabrina Sojourner** and publisher-poet **SDiane Bogus** all commanded attention suberbly without having to say a word...Not organized by OutWrite staff, but a highlight of the weekend was the Victoria Theatre benefit for the **International Lesbian and Gay Association Conference** this June in Guadalajara, Mexico. Now how come Bay Area African Americans didn't bump heads to do something like that?...Longest distance traveled could be **Hedimo Santano** from Brazil via Washington D.C. In addition to the prize as the most vertically challenged of the 200 plus presenters, Hedimo probably wins the deepest dimples hands down. Too bad **BWMT/San Francisco** virtually kidnapped him for the weekend...Former SEAMEC boardmember **Sherry Harris** says she has declared her candidacy for a seat on the Seattle City Council...The **BWMT** and **MACT** groups by the bay in Northern California are getting together next month for "Raps on Racism." Included will be "Approaching Racism: Looking at the Experience of Oppression," "Who Are You? Where Do You Come From?" "Shadows in Our Bedroom: Recognizing Racism in Relationships," "Can We Talk? Perceptions of Racism in BWMT/MACT" and "Awareness + Action = Change: Challenging Racism in Our Community through Organizational Collaboration"...Happy birthday to sci-fi writer **Samuel Delaney** who is 49 this month...**John Teamer** and **Reggie Williams** are celebrating their April birthdays in grand fashion with a joint tea dance to benefit the Joint Media Project of the **National Task Force on AIDS Prevention** and the **San Francisco Black Coalition on AIDS.** One of the duo is 40 and the other is 10 years older...**Essex Hemphill** turns pedagogical with a course "Evidence of Being" slated to begin at D.C.'s Washington School April 4...**ACT-UP/LA** takes a benefit at the Jewel's Catch One April 28. The invitation calls for attendees to "shake your bottymus to its maximus"...We came across two anti-racism publications by women this month. *Practicing Anti-Racism* by **Susan Wiseheart** is one. Write PAR, Box 169C, Drury, MO 65638. The other is *Cultural Etiquette: a Guide for the Well-Intentioned* by **Amoja Three Rivers.** Write Market Wimmin, Box 28, Indian Valley, VA 24105...San Diego has a new group for people of color with HIV-related concerns. Call 619-527-2477 for more info...San Francisco 49er **Roger Craig** showed up for "Teamwork '91," an AIDS Project of East Bay fundraiser last month...**Kenneth C. Jackson, Jr.** has taken over the role of Frank N. Furter, the crossdressing mad scientist in *The Rocky Horror Show* at the Wooly Mammoth in D.C....Judges of that venerable N.Y. institution, St. Patrick's Day Parade, proved once again that racism and homophobia go hand-in-hand when they literally turned their backs to **Mayor David Dinkins** as he marched with a lesbian and gay Irish contingent. Later the Mayor went dancing with the group in the Village... Writer **Cary Alan Johnson** and Gay African-Americans of Westchester founder **Ed Nash** chalked up two whole years in March...Even though the **Regalettes** are a non-gay group, judging from the photo layout in the *Los Angeles Sentinel* that chronicled their eighth annual "Stuffed Shirts in Fashion," we're sorry we weren't invited. In addition to shirts, other things that were stuffed included **Chris Cleveland**'s swimsuit (with dollar bills) and **Peter Moret**'s G-string (with Peter). Among the other models in this scholarship benefit were **Hosea Sanders** (swimsuit), **Taurean Blacque** (suit), **Jeffrey Epps** (fur) and **Dick Anthony Williams** (suit)...**Spike Lee** is re-writing a screen biography by **James Baldwin** and **Arnold Perl** on the life of **Malcolm X**...BLK received the **Stonewall Democratic Club**'s Media Award in ceremonies held at L.A. City Hall. Publisher **Alan Bell** was hiding again, so Assistant Editor **Mark Haile** accepted...**Martha Wash** appeared at the **Clubhouse** in Chicago in February...Last item: **Jack Nicholson** stopped by L.A.'s Minority AIDS Project and asked to use the bathroom last month. He did. And then he left. Go figure.



"Will that be masturbating or non-masturbating section, sir?"

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ORGANIZATIONS

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SERVICES

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Communications/Media Director. Overall responsibilities: Full-time position reporting to the Deputy Director for Programs of the National Minority AIDS Council. The Communications/Media Director will head the Communications/Publications Program. The purpose of this program is to keep the NMAC constituency, the media and the public in general abreast of the role of people of color in the HIV epidemic. The Director will also be responsible for promoting NMAC activities and NMAC responses to developments in HIV public policy. To accomplish this, the Director will be the primary contact with the print and broadcast media and as such will prepare and disseminate editorials and press releases. Specific duties and tasks: (1) Develop and manage press relations and continuing strategies to highlight the mission and accomplishments of people of color working on the community-based response to HIV. (2) Supervise the production of the NMAC HEALer and Update, including writing, editing, layout and distribution. (3) Maintain routine contact with reporters; provide information, guidance and referrals. (4) Prepare editorials, press releases and responses to press inquiries. (5) Organize media events such as briefings and press conferences. Job qualifications: Applicants are required to have a college or advanced degree in communications or journalism; 5-7 years of experience in journalism and communications, preferably with coverage of public policy issues and legislation, especially in issues affecting minority communities; demonstrated sensitivity to AIDS-HIV issues; excellent verbal and writing skills. Applicants should be energetic and highly motivated. Bilingual skills a plus. Women, people of color, HIV+, and physically challenged encouraged to apply. To apply: Send resume and cover letter to NMAC, 300 I St., N.E., Fourth Floor, Washington, DC 20002. Attn.: Carlos Velez. Closing date: April 15, 1991. Salary: Commensurate with experience. (29)

Conference Assistant. Overall responsibilities: Full-time position reporting to the Conference Logistics Coordinator of the National Minority AIDS Council. The Conference Assistant will help the Coordinator in carrying the logistics function and will also be in charge of contacting the trainers and speakers for the 1991 National Skills Building Conference. The program, which in principle will be determined by the Executive Committee, will be finalized by the Assistant, who will schedule the plenaries and tracks and will advise the Coordinator of space requirements. Specific duties and tasks: (1) Contact trainers and set up the training schedule for the various tracks and plenaries. (2) Serve as primary contact between the Conference Staff and the trainers/presenters. (3) Help the trainers with necessary travel arrangements. (4) Assist in the preparation of brochures and information booklets. (5) Assist with registration of participants. (6) Assist with the compilation of the Conference Report. (7) Serve, along with the Conference Logistics Coordinator, as contact with the participants. Job qualifications: Applicants are required to have a minimum of three years conference planning experience, preferably with conferences that are national in scope. Demonstrated sensitivity to issues affecting minority communities; demonstrated sensitivity to AIDS/HIV issues; excellent verbal and written skills. Applicants should be energetic and highly motivated. Knowledge of WordPerfect and bilingual skills a plus. Women, people of color, HIV+, and physically challenged encouraged to apply. To apply: Send resume and cover letter to NMAC, 300 I St., N.E., Fourth Floor, Washington, DC 20002. Attn.: Carlos Velez. Closing date: April 15, 1991. Salary: Commensurate with experience. (29)

Director of Youth Services. Individual experienced in developing and monitoring youth programs for gay and lesbian homeless youth populations. Responsible for staffing and managing department of over 20 employees. Strong budgetary, grant writing and computer skills required. Monitor performance of all grants for services and fiscal compliance. Management experience necessary. Advanced degree preferred. 5 to 7 years experience in youth programs. Send resume to: John Serne, Director of Personnel, GLCSC, 1213 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90038(29)

Editor/Assistant for adult all-black magazine. Full or part-time. Must be familiar with Macintosh (Pagemaker or Quark X-Press). Send résumé to BFP, Box 42628, Los Angeles, CA 90050. (30)

Executive Director. New York's Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation seeks ED for $450K non-profit organizations. Extensive budgeting, fundraising, public speaking and personnel experience essential. Women, people of color urged to apply. Resume, detailed cover letter, salary requirements to: Search Committee, GLAAD/NY, 80 Varick St. #3E, New York, NY 10013. Deadline May 31. EOE. (30)

Executive Director. NY in '94, organizers of Gay Games IV, seeks ED with experience for coordinating large events/festivals, fundraising and fiscal management, short- and long-term strategic planning and public relations. Knowledge of gay and lesbian athletic community preferred. Women, people of color, HIV+ encouraged to apply. Resume, cover letter and salary requirement to: search Committee, New York in '94, Box 202, New York, NY 10036. Application deadline: May 15, 1991. (30)

Feminist Editor. Associate editor for women's publication. Eec. writing/copy-editing skills, familiarity with communities of color required. $19-22K, good benefits. Resume, short writing sample to: Sojourner, 42 Seaverns Ave., Boston, MA 02130. No calls. Women of color strongly encouraged to apply. (31)

Pastor. Faith Temple, a non-demoninational, evangelical church with a special ministry to a diverse population, is seeking a qualified candidate, who is supportive of our special outreach to the gay and lesbian community, to serve as Pastor. Qualifications included: licensed/ordained minister with pastoral experience; masters degree preferred, bachelors degree required; education should include seminary/bible college; must be saved by grace, possess gifts of the spirit and be willing to promote the ministry of Faith Temple; must have strong counseling/teaching background; must be able to lead the congregation in worship and praise. A cover letter describing the candidate's interest in the Pastoral position at Faith Temple, a resume and two letter of recommendation should be sent before April 30, 1991 to Elder Michael Vanzant, Pastoral Search, 5521 5th St., N.E., Washington, DC 20011. (29)

CALLS FOR SUBMISSION

Queer Press is accepting manuscripts from survivors of childhood sexual abuse, or a friend, lover, family member or professional working with survivors, or a member of the queer community who has something to say. We particularly want to encourage gay men to write about these experiences. We also encourage all those whose voices have historically been suppressed. We want to encourage writing from those of us who are poor or working class, rural, disabled, young, old, politically radical, queers of colour and culturally and religiously diverse. We plan on supporting the expressions of those who have been silenced. Guidelines: Typed, dot-matrix and neatly handwritten work all accepted. Please include a self-addressed and stamped envelope, along with a brief biography with your contribution. We welcome previously unpublished authors and those who do not yet consider themselves "writers." We welcome artwork, but please don't send originals. Contributions on IBM compatible disks appreciated. We cannot guarantee that all work will be either published or returned. Mail to: Q. Press, Box 485, Sta. P, Toronto, ON M5S 2T1, Canada. Phone 416-516-3363. deadline May 31, 1991. (30)

First annual Invitational Gay Pride Queer Art (Qu-Art) Show seeks artwork for show and poetry for publication. People of color and women especially encouraged to participate. Send submissions, slides, resume, statement and SASE by April 15. If poetry, limit: five poems. Show in June. Qu'Art, N. Mason, 2049 W. Superior, Chicago, IL 60612-1313. (29)

Gay siblings anthology seeking manu-

scripts in the form of narratives or interviews telling significant, humorous, tragic or poignant stories of lesbians and gay men with their gay siblings. Non-fiction essays of all types will be considered. SASE. Deadline July 1, 1991. Don and Molly Martin, 1016 E. 7th Ave., Olympia, WA 98501. (29)

Seeking women's stories about the deaths of their mothers. There are no books that speak to the specific grief of women losing their mothers. This anthology will allow us to find strength and solace in each others experiences and insights. First person narratives, short stories and essays welcome. Send SASE for more info, or contributions by April 30, 1991 to: Helen Vozenilek, Box 18, Berekeley, CA 94701. (29)

The Conditions Collective is accepting submissions for an anthology of writing by women on censorship to be published by Cleis Press. The Collective will consider fiction, poetry, analytical essays, novel excerpts, and translations on this topic. How does censorship relate to the issues of, for example, race, class, age, relationships, sexuality, women in prison, women with AIDS/HIV, and women's and lesbian movements? The writings could also explore the ramifications of censorship on future writing; the ways that women censor one another and themselves; or the homophobic hysteria over gay and lesbian writing and visual images. Visuals will also be considered. The Conditions Collective welcomes the work of women all around the world who feel that a commitment to women is an integral part of their lives. Please send submissions, before June 1, 1990, (typed, double-spaced, up to 15 pages, with a SASE for return) to: Conditions, Box 1640, New York, NY 10003. (29)

The 1991 Lesbian Writers' Fund is seeking submissions of fiction or poetry. Five grants of $11,000 each will be awarded to emerging lesbian writers of fiction and poetry. Additionally, a $5,000 Sappho Award of Distinction will be awarded to an established lesbian writer. The work of the applicant must have been published in a magazine, newspaper, literary journal or anthology. Authors of published books are not eligible for application, unless the book is self-published, or the author is the editor of the book. The 1991 deadline for application is April 5. For application forms call 212-529-8021 or write the Astraea National Lesbian Action Foundation, 666 Broadway #520, New York, NY 10012. (29)

Submissions of rap and poetry sought from lesbian and gay youth by IMRU, Southern California's longest running lesbian and gay radio program, for a special broadcast featuring rap music and verse. We're looking for original work that reflects lesbian and/or gay themes, and is positive, life affirming and empowering for lesbians and gay men. Entries containing the following will be disqualified: 1. Racism, sexism, homophobia or mean-spirited attacks on vulnerable groups of people. 2. Profanity or material even remotely connected to or connotating sexual or excretory functions or organs, due to FCC regulations on so-called "indecent" language. Submission requirements: 1. All entrants must be 18 to 24 years of age. 2. Individuals or groups may enter a maximum of two entries. 3. The following information must be provided on a 3"x5" index card: Artist's name, title of piece, format (rap song or poem), performance time (three minutes maximum), contact person's name, address and phone number (advise if discretion should be used when writing or phoning). 4. Text or lyrics of the entry must be typed only, on separate sheets of paper. Audio cassettes will be accepted only if accompanied by typed copy. No exceptions. 5. Entry deadline is April 26, 1991 at midnight. Absolutely no entries will be accepted after the deadline. All entries become property of Pacifica Radio/KPFK-FM and no entry will be returned to the entrant. To ensure broadcast quality, selected entries may be required to re-cord or re-record materials at the KPFK. Entries should be sent to: Joey Flyer, IMRU/Overnight Productions, KPFK-FM, 3729 Cahuenga Blvd. West, North Hollywood, CA 91604. (29)

Gay and Lesbian Media Coalition is seeking recently created videos by artists of color to be included in this year's L.A. International Gay and Lesbian Film and Video Festival to be held in July. Documentaries, experimental art and narrative pieces, animation and super-8 film transfers will all be considered. Send VHS or 3/4" videotapes by May 1, 1991 to: Adriene Jenik, GLMC, 8228 Sunset Blvd. #308, L.A., CA 90046. (29)

PLACES TO LIVE

Hollywood Bowl area. Looking for a masculine, gay or bisexual roommate to share two bedroom with loft apartment. 1300 sq. ft. with washer and dryer in unit. Secured parking. Central air. $565 monthly. First and last month rent. Charlie, 213-874-6541. (29)

Chino/Pomona area GBM seeks roommate. 3 bedroom 3 bath townhouse, pool/spa/all luxury amenities. $350/mo. 714-628-2443. (30)

Roommate to share 2 bedroom house in Ladera-View Heights area. Quiet neighborhood. Furnished bedroom, share rest of house and yard. Cable TV available. Prefer non-smoker professional responsible male or female 25-35. Rent $450/mo incl. util. Call 213-292-1590. (30)

Single apartment. Furnished. USC area. Mature adult. $400 per month. Call Dennis 213-731-3659. (30)

Three bedroom townhome, large bedroom and bath for rent. Quiet area, clean environment. $450 includes utilities. Move in immediately. For more information call 213-299-6758. (29)

FOR SALE

Skins, the fanzine for kinky uncut men. Free ads. Sample copy: $4 and statement of age. CB&V, Box 97694, Las Vegas, NV 89193. (39)

Hot sex! You can have it with this amazing herbal formula. Increases stamina and enhances sex drive. 100% natural. Safe and effective. Send $10 + SASE to Delacroix, 7605 Santa Monica Blvd. #610-B, Los Angeles, CA 90046. (30)

Bold black men in creatively hot photos! For intro set (10 men-10 photos) send age (21+), signature, $10 to Zebra Studios, Box 138271, Chicago, IL 60613. (31)

Gay magazines. Pack of 6 hot used magazines. Just $15. P&H, Inc. Send check or M.O. to Island Marketing, 127 S. Shore Dr., Island Lake, IL 60042, State you are 21. (37)

BLK T-shirts, satin jackets, baseball caps, sweatshirts, key tags, back issues, note cards, etc. now available mail order. Write: BLK Mail and Femail Store Catalog, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. Or call 800-TRUE-BLK, anytime 24 hours a day, seven days a week. (TF)

MASSEURS

Big, black and hairy, 38, 6'1", 175 lbs., lean, fit, top man, hung 8x6, cut, $50 min. in/out, ask for Mike. 213-874-9203. (29)

Attractive, well-built guy (29, 5'7", 140#), experienced, offers deep thorough relaxing massage to other in-shape guys by candlelight, table, $40 in West Hollywood, $? out. Greg, 213-650-6265. Calls verified. (30)

Randy Cochran. 818-997-3776. L.A.'s hot top black studman. Hung huge, yet versatile. 28, 5'9", 160 lbs., with a tight smooth body. 24-hour, in-out sessions. $125-$200/hr. Video titles include "Black Attack," "Heatwaves," "Black Force" and many more. Visits are in person...Not associated with 976-WOLF. Safe sex okay. (29)

The Real McCoy. Very handsome Italian professional, 29, great body, offers custom-tailored 5-star bodywork to the discerning man. Atmosphere, style, technique and more. Quite simply...the best! 213-288-6800. (31)

I'm Thomas, a tall, goodlooking white masseur near Palm Springs airport. Let me work on your stressed-out body and soul. 619-322-8077. (E)

Stop. Handsome, bubble-butted athlete will rub you in all the right spots. Don't be duped by phony masseurs. Let my legit, certified hands do the walking on your stressed body. $40 in. $60 out. 95% recall. Call Bryan. 213-224-0243. 24 hours. (29)

WOMEN'S PERSONALS

SBM, 40, very dominant arty type, likes dtraight, submissive bi-ladies, lesbians. No phonies, drugs. I'm hot and kinky. Hurry! BLK Mailbox #124. (E)

Hampton Roads, Virginia area. Single, black bisexual female, professional, 31, in search of feminine lesbian or bi-female for relationship varied interests. No fats, drugs, drugs or marrieds. Photo and note appreciated to BLK Mailbox #121. (E)

GBF, 25, graduate student, eclectic interests, multi-talented, new to the life, looking to connect with other GBFs from all over, especially Atlanta, Toledo/Detroit, D.C. for friendship and a sense of community. Will answer all. BLK Mailbox #132. (29)

BF, 26, student, not looking for romance through this ad. However, I would like to exchange postcards, short notes or long letters with women from all over. I live in Detroit. BLK Mailbox #107. (E)

Soulful, diamond in the raw, 19, African-American ISO lasting friendships with multi-cultured, positive lesbian sisters USA/abroad (18-?). Will answer all. Maria, 329 Childress Lane, Flora, MS 39071-9740. (29)

Fluffy, feminine, early 40s, fun-loving, witty, sensitive, romantic, who appreciates nature, intimacy, looking for independent butch. I am 5'7½", sexy, plump. Seek friendship first. Who knows what can happen? BLK Mailbox #115. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS INTERNATIONAL

Canadian GWM, 34, 5'9", 160#, attractive, masculine, fit, blue eyes, dark blond hair, beard, university student, enjoys reading, movies, videos, pen pals, swimming, outdoors, travel, seeks friends, any race or age, anywhere. T.H., Box 46612, Stn. G, Vancouver, BC V6R 4G8, Canada. (30)

GWM, 42, 5'6", 120, G/P F/A/P seeks 19-30 verbal abusive athletes. Correspondence welcomed. M.P.O. Box 15475, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 5B2, Canada. Jimmy, 604-683-7393, noncollect, 12 p.m.-11 a.m. (29)

Attractive Ghanaian 23, seeks white and black penpals 20-30 years. Write: Jack, Box 3879, Accra, Ghana, West Africa. (31)

White French man lives in Paris, 37 years, romantic, serious. Seek black bottom men masculine, like dildo, rubber, exchange naked hot photos together. Also look for some black videos, black worldwide are welcome. M. Francois, 15 rue Carmen, 94240 L'Hay les Roses, France. (29)

Attractive GWM, 38, 5'11", 165 lbs, dark hair, green eyes, moustache, hairy, well-built, Greek active, seeks big, muscular, masculine, Greek passive black or latino friends. Will travel. Visitors welcome to Paris. Photo please. P. Atlan, 8 Passage Lathuile, 75018 Paris, France. (31)

Visiting Italy? Bearded couple awaits BMs. D. Russo, Via Massena 51, Torino 10128, Italy. (29)

Active Japanese seeks muscular BM. Fujinuma, Nihontsutsumi 2-16-6, Taitoku, Tokyo, Japan. (29)

GWM, teddy-bear, seeks dominant black male tops for intimate friendship and fun. Doug, #103-4800 Arbutus, Vancouver, BC V6J 4A5. 604-263-3991. (TF)

The Legal Stuff

■ **Complete and sign the following. None of this information will appear in your ad.**

Name_____

Address_____

City_____

State_____ Zip_____

Phone (_____) _____

■ I am an adult of legal voting age and consent to the placing of my ad in BLK. I understand that the Blk Publishing Company is in no way responsible for any transactions between myself and any persons I contact through its publications.

Signed_____

The Rates

■ **Personal ads** of 8 words or fewer are free if this form is used and your ad is sent by mail. No duplicates or copies. More than 8 words, the rate is 40 cents per additional word. Abbreviations are unnecessary since you are charged by the word.

■ **Employment offered ads** may be placed at the rate of 10 cents per word. There is no limit to the number of words.

■ **All other ads** take the rate of 40 cents per word.

BLK Mailboxes

■ **Mailbox number and forwarding service.** You may have the replies to your *personal or employment offered ad* sent to a BLK Mailbox for $7 per month. Replies are forwarded to you in a plain envelope once a week, for six weeks after your ad appears. Mail may not be picked up in person.

■ **Replying to a BLK Mailbox.** Only letters may be sent to BLK Mailboxes. They may not be used for the distribution of bulk mail or circulars. To reply, address your envelope:

BLK Mailbox #_____
BLK Classifieds
Box 83912
Los Angeles, California 90083-0912

The Rules

■ Deadline: First Friday of the month of publication.

■ Ads received after deadline will appear in the following issue.

■ Open account billing available on approved credit. Terms: Net 10 EOM. Minimum charge is $15. *Credit must be approved in advance.*

■ **Rules and regulations.** *A word is any group of letters or numbers with a space on either side of it.* Free ads may run a maximum of three times, then must be renewed. We reserve the right to reject, rewrite or edit ads including those that advertise or solicit sexual acts considered unsafe by current AIDS criteria. Telephone numbers in ads must be verified prior to publication at a charge of $3 (within California $1). If a number has been previously verified by BLK, attach an ad containing the number to your new ad. Advertiser's complete name, address and authorizing signature must accompany ad. This information is confidential and will not appear in your ad.

By Telephone

■ You may place your ad by telephone and charge it to Visa, MasterCard or American Express if your order totals $15 or more.

■ Call toll-free 800-TRUE-BLK anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Tell the computer which credit card you have, the card number, expiration date and what you want your ad to say.

By Mail

■ Completely free ads may only be placed by mail.

■ Ads that are not completely free may be paid by check, Visa, MasterCard or American Express. Do not send cash.

■ Send to: BLK Classifieds, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912.

By Credit Card

VISA MasterCard AMERICAN EXPRESS Card

■ Minimum for credit card billing is $15 whether by phone or by mail.

Name of credit card_____ Expires_____

Credit card number_____

Your Ad

■ **Print clearly what you want to appear in your ad. Use a separate sheet if you need more space.**

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■ **Figure cost of ad:**

_____ words at 40¢ (8 free if personal ad) $_____

_____ words at 10¢ (employment ads) $_____

Cost to run ad one month $_____

Number of times you want ad to run _____

Total cost of ads $_____

Phone verification at $3 (within CA $1) $_____

BLK Mailbox at $7 per month $_____

One-year subscription at $18 to BLK $_____

Total enclosed (send no cash) $_____

MEN'S PERSONALS—AL

Black hung seeking black hung. Box 602, Huntsville, Alabama 35804. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—CA

Northern California

BM looking for BM. I am 5'10", 30 years old, 160 lbs., workout, have good job. If you would like a date, send photo to 438 Staten #302, Oakland, CA 94610. (29)

Phone sex. Black men only. 415-775-4919. (29)

2 GWMs, 40 years old, seek heavy hung GBM for fun and safe sex. (Temecula area.) Reply to Occupant, Box 885, Winchester, CA 92396. (E)

Bodybuilder, top, SASE. Emmette Mitchell, C-22649 C-7-C-230, Box 29, Represa, CA 95671. (31)

GBM, 26, 5'7", handsome, discreet, non-smoker, would like to meet a young, handsome, masculine male under 5'10", for friendship and traveling. No feminine or fats. Send letter, photo and phone number to Box 20514, Oakland, CA 94620. (29)

Huge white hole eats dildos. Stretch it! Call hole. 415-585-8717. (E)

GBM, 33, bottom, seeks top bi or GBM, discreet, bright. Box 70571, Oakland, CA 94612. (33)

San Diego Area

Very special French-American businessman, 39, 5'11", 170 blond, masculine, non-smoker, non-drinker, healthy HIV+, intelligent, energetic, low-key, would like to share good times and travel between Europe and the U.S. with tall black man or Latino (over 6'2" if possible), educated, fun, very masculine (muscles not important), professional, strong, top, truly heavily hung and long-lasting. Must be of excellent character. I have a lot to offer. Try me. You'll be glad you did. BLK Mailbox #125. (29)

Sapien erectus! Wanna unload? It's O.K.! Phone 619-292-1922 now! (29)

Beefy GWM stud seeking expert oral service. Call Larry, 619-324-8964. (E)

Free! Fone fun for all cummers. A.C. 619-292-1922. Anytime. (31)

White boy seeks hung tops. Write Box 3411, La Mesa, CA 91944. (31)

WGM, 45, short, stocky, beard, Greek passive, French active/passive, seeks black man 35-55 for hot safe sex, ? relationship. No drugs. No bars. Will reply to all. Box 710183, San Diego, CA 92171. (29)

BM, Palm Springs area needs beginner BM for work-out buddy, maybe more. 619-324-5450, answer machine. (31)

Palm Springs topman seeking playmates! Boxholder #3337, PS, CA 92263. (E)

Male looking for hung, biBM. T.G., Box 3391, San Diego, CA 92163. (30)

GWM, masculine, top man. Larry, Box 3337, Palm Springs, CA 92263. (E)

Los Angeles Area

Footbal player, beefy weightlifter wanted. U—love to cuddle. I—love to massage. We—need to belong. Black man, 41, 5'9", 180, workout. Box 29037, Los Angeles, CA 90029. (32)

Seek nine inches plus safe sex. I'm blond, blue, 5'11", 160, 30s, good shape. 213-657-5444. (30)

Handsome WM, 35, seeks olderman 37-57. I am 6', 180, built, muscular (weightlifter), non-promiscuous physician. You be loving, burly, 200 lbs. plus, paunchy but stocky type, honest and very masculine. I am not into "gay scene." BLK Mailbox #126. (30)

Black dick seeks warm mouth. Edward, 213-938-4964. (30)

Sexy French muscular bodybuilder, 30, 5'10", 175 bubblebutt, green-blue eyes, longs for tall, massive, super muscular, thick, bodybuilder over 200 lbs., any race, for friendship and safe fun. Am discreet, sophisticated. 213-656-2942. (33)

If you're a tall healthy GBM with a big cock, call Lee at 818-896-8890. This GL blond wants to please you. (30)

Tony of Wilton Place. Call Lee at 818-896-8890. (30)

Mexican wants big dick. Box 19543, LAX 90019. (30)

Commitment and values: B/M, 38, 5'11", 170, G/P, seeks an affectionate, tall, G/A white or black top man, 40-55, who likes 1-to-1, homelife, mountains and stability. Mel, Box 712427, L.A. 90071, 213-656-0258, ext. 22 (29)

Magician seeks men of color into magick/witchcraft. Serioues. 213-461-1338. (30)

Wanted: Non-angry GBM for tender relationship w/GWM artist, 36. Size unimportant. Ray Box 46846, L.A. 90046. (30)

Professional, very busy, 5'11", 160, 30s, seeks 8 inches or more. Safe sex. Financial arrangement for your time. F. Hammond, 8721 Santa Monica Blvd., #125, West Hollywood, CA 90069.(30)

BM, plump top, needs a bottom BM with dark, dark skin for safe fun. I like men 5'10" to 6'2" that like the bottom. A big tool is A+. Let the fun begin. David, Box 84174, L.A., CA 90073. (29)

BM. Black hips. Can I immerse 7½ real deep? D.P., Box 84174, L.A., CA 90073. (29)

GWM seeks GBM, handsome, hairy N.Y. Greek, 28, 165#, 5'10", well-built with Mel Gibson looks. Seeks well-built nice GBM, 25-38, for friendship or workout partner. Leave message, 24 hour. Mel. 213-281-1171. (30)

If your sex black tool is extra large (diameter and/or length) I challenge you to try me. I am 35 years old, Latino, 140 pounds, 5'7", bilingual. Letter and/or nude photo. Mr. V., Box 761326, Los Angeles, CA 90076. (31)

Sincere, slender black male artist seeks handsome, very aggressive, versatile, sincere, homo erectus, any race. No chubbies, queens or losers. Call 213-661-1431. (33)

Great looking couple. Black top, 45, white bottom, 30, like to meet black top/white bottom duo for friendship and safe sex. Box 42794, LAX 90050-0794. (30)

Blk/Hispanic male seeks masculine Asian, Hispanic or Black bottoms. You: 5'9" or taller, tanned to medium brown complexion. Must be G/P 25 to 35 yrs and able to make love to 9" of uncut condomed manmeat. Me: G/A 28 yrs 5'11" light brown skin, brown hair and eyes, attractive, 160 lbs. Your picture gets mine. Interested? Write: Mr. G., 3765 Motor Ave. #1094, LA, CA 90034. No fats or fems please. (29)

Volunteer research subjects are needed for a study concerning experiences and meanings of multiple AIDS-related losses. If you are a gay man who has lost 5 or more loved ones to AIDS, and would be willing to share your experiences, please call for a confidential interview: 213-876-7197. (29)

Amateur WM physique photographer in Baldwin Hills seeks masculine guys to model in exchange for prints. Personal use only. Phone number to D. Smith, Box 341515, L.A. 90034 (29)

Goodlooking, intelligent BGM, will be in San Francisco late June, early July. Want to meet Latin or Asian men 25-35. Politically active, literate, non-drinker, non-smoker. Prefer same. Reply BLK Mailbox #130. (29)

Good looking butch masculine fit bottom seeks BL/Latin top. I'm 31, 6'3", 200. You are hung, 25-45, affectionate lover cause I'm the best. Photo/phone to BLK Mailbox #131. (29)

Me: GWM 39 professional, likes music, desert, beach, blond blue eyes, bottom but versatile, hung & fair shape. You: GBM top, hung, 35-50, into hot sex and fun activities. Seeking friend not lover. Photo/letter to 9671 Magnolia #107, Riverside, CA 92503. (29)

Latins R us! Latins and admirers meet in a discreet way, active organization with members worldwide. For free info send SASE to: HMS, 8721 Santa Monica Blvd. #338-B, Hollywood, CA 90069. (29)

Hot raunchy white wants domination. Box 86651, L.A. 90026. (30)

White seeks black for friendship and more. GWM, 32, body-builder, seeks GBM, 27 to 40. Me: honest, energetic, intelligent, mature, passionate, loving, assertive but versatile, capable of compromise, professional, handsome, masculine, muscular, brown hair, blue eyes, 6'2", 195#, 8x5½", bubble-butt. You: similar man of excellent character, ready and capable of being an equal partner, 6'2" to 6'5", 9x6½+", dark and muscular and healthy. Call 619-322-6292. You won't be bored! (31)

Goodlooking, easy-going, very oral, sensual, safe, flexible, fun GWM, professional, 43, 180 6', moustache, hairy chest, seeks very muscular only (bodybuilder a plus), black male for pleasurable, discreet contact. Call 213-913-0259 before 10 p.m. (30)

Attractive and successful black writer seeks intelligent and articulate man of any race for travel, dating, romance. I am 30, 5'9", 140, swimmer. Call, leave message, 213-222-1115, or write Box 421145, Los Angeles, CA 90042. (29)

Black male, 35, 175 pounds, 5'8", bottom, wants to meet bodybuilder for mutual workouts. Race not important. 2600 Azusa Ave. #273, W. Covina, CA 91792. (30)

Gay male, 37, 5'9", 165 lbs., blue eyes, into classic film, music, sunset walks at the beach, seeks intelligent, aware individual for mutually-fulfilling companionship. Please call Bruce at 213-338-9695. (24)

MEN'S PERSONALS—CO

Caribbean man wants tops with thick dicks. Box 18714, Denver, CO 80218. (29)

MEN'S PERSONALS—CT

Congenial WM ISO BM. Box 284, Hartford, CT 06141-0284. (TF)

MEN'S PERSONALS—DC

GWM seeks GBM hung huge. 202-483-3693. (31)

Single African-American male 26, 5'9" slender, light complexioned, masculine, healthy and intelligent and very conscious. Seeking friendship and correspondence with intelligent serious minded, independent masculine, light skin brother or Puerto Rican brother age 20-29. Let's write with photos & letters to Eric, Box 39215, Wash, D.C. 20016. Peace brother. (30)

GBM, straight-appearing, stocky, romantic, seeks gay white man. Must be financially successful, 25-40, straight-appearing, romantic and willing to develop a relationship with a victim of the current economic conditions. Will travel. Serious relpies only. Photo or phone number a must. Reply BLK Mailbox #127. (29)

MEN'S PERSONALS—GA

GBM 30 195 seeks J/O partner GBM 24-30. Box 54894, Atlanta, GA 30308

MEN'S PERSONALS—HI

You are top, hung, HIV+ and want to enjoy life. Loving home waiting for you in Hawaii. Write: Boxholder, Box 75704, Honolulu, HI 96836. (30)

MEN'S PERSONALS—IN

Incarcerated male to be released in under a year. Now that you know my bad side. I'm a white male, 27 years old, 5'6", 150 lbs., green eyes, with long

brown hair. Wide variety of interests that range from weightlifting, bikes, traveling, nature, etc. Pretty down to earth guy who enjoys the easier things in life. Honesty and loyalty are my two strongest points along with a good character and an easy laugh. I have an open mind, therefore, I am an easy person to converse with, and encourage meaningful conversation. I feel the sole purpose of life is to simply be happy and enjoy it as it comes. I'd like to hear from a mature gentlemen for friendship, companionship. Please write to M. Leonard, #875533, Box 30, Pendleton, IN 46064. I hope to hear from you soon. (E)

GWM wants relationship. Dennis Pitman, #882430, Box 30, Pendleton, IN 46064. (29)

Incarcerated in Indiana. GWM, 30, handsome, intelligent, out in one year, seeks sincere, serious lifemate. No games. Jeff Schrader #21140, Box 30, Pendleton, IN 46064. (29)

MEN'S PERSONALS—IL

GWM, 30s, blond, 5'9", 140 lbs., athletic, masculine, movies, travel, working out, etc. seeks athletic GBM or BiBM, under 40 years old, for safe, hot encounters. Top/bottom. 312-327-4895. (E)

GWM seeks GBM, 30s, in Chicago. 312-525-1267. (31)

White, 38, lonely, hot. J. Evans, 610 N. Henrietta, Effingham, IL 62401. (29)

MEN'S PERSONALS—LA

Gay black father seeks friendship/relationship with other gay fathers black or white or those who appreciate children who have reached adolescent age. I am a warm sensitive romantic in search of others who are family-oriented. Write Ly-Leh, Box 144, Evergreen, LA 71333. (29)

Black male, seeking bi-couples, TVs, TSs, drag queens, crossdressers, any race, any shape, ages 21 to 55, for friendship, kinky times, swinging. Am clean and discreet. Like all cultures. Motel meetings in Natchez, Miss., Vidalia, La., Ferriday, La. area. Call anytime day or night. 318-339-9269. C.B., Box 941, Jonesville, La. 71343. (29)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MD

Nice guy seeks same for friendship. This 50-year-old straight-acting WM is looking for a very masculine BM. Pleasant disposition, positive outlook and stability are important to me. Blue collar, thick endowment and trim build are pluses. Send detailed letter and photo of yourself to: BLK Mailbox #118 or call 301-779-6738. Pen pals welcome. Visitors to D.C. should call in advance of arrival. (29)

GBM, 24, 5'11", 165 lbs., in Washington, D.C. area, mature, very attractive and straight acting/appearance, enjoys playing baseball, basketball, tennis. I am seeking someone for possible friendship/something serious with GBM/BiBM, 25-43. Like I, you must be healthy, sexy, a little romantic, spiritually conscious, straightforward, discreet (not paranoid), comfortable with yourself/sexuality. Important that you have an awareness and concern of the black community and its struggles. Knowledge or willing to learn of your black culture/heritage a plus. Must be someone who is serious and realizes life and relationships consist of more than just sex, but of respect for yourself, me, our families and friends! Could I be asking too much? Let's make my first ad a success! No effeminates! BLK Mailbox #123 (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MA

WM, 53, seeks thin, romantic, clean black male in Boston. Call 617-524-0417. (30)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NJ

GBM, 20, seeks GWM for relationship. Box 1825, Rahway, NJ 07065. (E)

White male, 32, 160, brown hair, blue eyes, seeking young males for friends/sexual partners. Prefer cute, slim, smooth, cut, clean-shaven boyish Northern European, black and Southeast Asians. Like music, philosophy, science, health food. Am honest, sensitive, sincere. Live-in possible. No V.D., kinky/slutty types. Photo a must (preferably revealing)! Ron, Box 307, Irvington, NJ 07111-1940. (31)

GWM, 31, seeks GBM. R.G., Box 83, Hackensack, NJ 07602-0083. (29)

You: BGM. Me: Frustrated. Help! Box 130, Pennsauken, NJ 08110. (29)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NY

GWM, 43, BB, handsome, 195 lbs., hairy, versatile, 6', seeks lean, muscular, defined, sincere, honest, GBM with washboard abdominals. Photo necessary. Box 6A, 111 Montague St., Brooklyn, NY 11201. (E)

White male, middle age, enjoys the company and friendship of black males for dinner, theater and quiet times. John, Box 10042, Staten Island, NY 10310. (29)

White professional seeks black man. Smith, 118 Second St., Albany, 12210. (31)

White male, middle-aged, enjoys the company and friendship of black males, any age, for dinner, movies, quiet times. New York area. Respond to John, Box 10042, Staten Island, NY 10310. (29)

GWM, 42, 5'1", 125 lbs, brown hair, blue eyes, eyeglasses, considered cute. Cigarettes, wine, dancing, antiques, movies, rock, classical, quiet nights at home. Mature, responsible, warm, gentle, loving. Seek black male 40+, same attributes for friendship and possibly more. Rochester, N.Y. area. Serious replies only, send photo. BLK Mailbox #133 (29)

Very lonely black gent, retired professional, 65, silver-haired, medium brown skin, very short, stocky (5'2", 155), shy, submissive, servile, plain looking, conversationalist, Fr/Act only; eagerly seeks male (only) friends, guests (blacks, Hispanics, any race/age) who are clean, intelligent, dominant, large, macho, Fr/Pass., verbally aggressive (no drugs, S/M), discreet. 212-681-0179 evenings only 9-11:30 p.m. Dave R., 930 Grand Concourse #6B, Bronx, N.Y. 10451. No inmates. (E)

GBM, masculine, intelligent seeks GM. Box 400665, Brooklyn, NY 11240. (E)

Muscular, hard runner's build. Hot, sensual, HIV-, hung, versatile. Smooth, upbeat professional GWM, 44, 5'5", 128 lbs., enjoying fitness, outdoors, humor, arts, work, romance, travel, seeks warm-spirited, firm-bodied, hot-blooded, creative-minded, healthy-habited GBM, 30-45, any location, for fun/friendship/relationship. Rick, Box 4102, Utica, NY 13504. (E)

BiBM, 25, 5'9", hazel eyes, seeks black or Latino homeboy type, 18-26, in N.Y.C. area with athletic build for occasional, boy-to-boy fun. Must be disease-free. Send ph/ph. Let's do this. BLK Mailbox #119. (E)

Lean, muscular, GBM, top, 52, 6', 155, seeks fit, muscular, intelligent bottoms, into camping, hiking, nudism, travel, all ages/races. J. Tree, Box 161, S.I., NY 10304. (29)

GWM, continental, refined, personable, safe, hospitable, in his 50s, seeks hung BM for worship and devotion. 212-677-4159. (29)

Masculine GBM wanted by goodlooking GBM, 24, for friendship/fun. Send letter/picture to: Boxholder, Box 2122, New York 10008-2122. (E)

GWM, 48, goodlooking, masculine appearance, HIV-, caring, down to earth guy, seeks young, masculine BM, 18-30 for serious relationship, Box 547, Bridgehampton, NY 11932. (29)

Hung GBM, 50s, top, seeks hairy Hispanic bottom. BLK Mailbox #120. (E)

Are there any black and Latin tops out there? Haven't been able to find any. Prove you're not an endangered species! PR bottom would like to meet you. Age or dick size not important. Must look/act straight. I'm 40, 140 lbs., 5'11", slim. Write to: Louis, Box 642, Corona-Elmhurst, NY 11373-0642. Letter with photo and/or phone gets answered first. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NC

Gay white male, 41, straight-acting and ex-military, seeks black friends anywhere. Will answer all. Mike Thomas, Box 16911, Greensboro, NC 27416. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—OH

Black gay male seeks a mentally and physically stimulating relationship with gay male. You: healthy sense of humor, positive outlook, willing and capable of being equal and sharing mate, best friend, lover in a healthy, trusting, honest relationship. Me: attractive, 43 years, 5'7", muscular, 160 lbs., nonsmoker, drinker or drug user, with a masculine demeanor and variety of interests. Send letter and photo, Chas., Box 524, Cincinnati, OH 45201. (E)

GMW, 5'10", 155, 35, ISO GBM 18-30 for friendship and possibly more. Relocating to Dayton, Ohio area soon and need roommate/housemate. Respond with photo to Ron, Box 17474, Arlington, VA 22216. Let's talk. Trust me, you can't go wrong. Pen pals welcome. (E)

Listen up, fellas. GBM, 30, 6'1", 210 lbs., masculine build, college football jock, top, professional. I'm looking for a GBM, Carribean, South American, Oriental bottom, ages 25 to 45. No fatties. I'm HIV-, willing to travel to East Coast, Midwest, Southeast U.S.A. Looking for that special someone who is interested in dining, movies, jazz, fitness. A bottom who wants to be with someone who wants to make you happy. Please send letter, photos. Nude photo will get even faster reply. Mail to BLK Mailbox #110. I am very passionate. I like to give a warm massage and rub you all over. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—RI

BM, 31, 190 lbs., stocky muscular build, seeks WM, 28-50, from Connecticut to Maine. I will be re-locating to Newport, R.I. June or July 1991. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—SC

Hot blooded, masc., black Southern buck, 25, with hot Southern comfort to offer. Interested in masc. GBM everywhere. I'm extremely fond of medium to large physique men, however, slender men are welcome also. Send your hottest letters and photos in exchange for mine. (No fats or fems, please.) Marc, Box 12143, Cola, SC 29211. (29)

Attractive, masculine, GBM, 25, would like to meet GBM from everywhere who could teach an inexperienced ex-prisoner of guilt about being gay. The joy of gay sex! Am very eager to learn. Send your hottest letters and nude photos. In return you'll get mine. M.T., Box 12143, Cola, SC 29209. No fems, please!(29)

MEN'S PERSONALS—TX

Uncuts fascinate you? Like to call, write, meet or play with uncuts? Correspondence-contact club for those into Uncuts. SASE to UM, Box 72455-BK, Corpus Christi, TX 78472. (31)

Houston: GWM, 52, 5'7½", HIV-, bottom, wants very large black men, horse hung, to enjoy this hungry ass. Send photo and address. BLK Mailbox #122. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—UT

GWM, 55, 5'8", 150, attractive Utah professional, seeks GBM or Latin athlete, non-smoker, non-drinker, non-drug user. If you fit this description and are seriously looking for a quality one-one relationship, call 801-364-2523. (32)

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BLK

Vol. 3, No. 9, Whole No. 34
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NEWS
CARTOONS
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READ MY LIPS
CLASSIFIEDS

THE BLK INTERVIEW
Patti LaBelle

PLUS THE WORD ON
Magic Johnson
Donna Summer
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"'YOUNG SOUL REBELS' MAKES 'JUNGLE FEVER' LOOK LIKE 'GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER'!"

— David Ehrenstein, THE ADVOCATE

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ISAAC JULIEN'S

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JUMP START

BY ALAN BELL

BLK is first and foremost at what it does —covering the news of the African-American lesbian and gay communities in the United States.

Ever growing in our sophistication, expertise and reputation, BLK has worked hard to earn every ounce of respect that it has achieved over the past three years and nearly 1.1 million copies.

Just as boyz B come men and girlz women, a propitious moment in our continuous evolution is now at hand. It's time for BLK to take its rightful place on newsstands and in bookstores across the country alongside other magazines that dominate their field. We'll be right there with *Essence*, the *Advocate* and just a little bit ahead of *Ebony*.

The move to become a paid publication has been a long one. Some readers may be disappointed they will no longer be able to get for free the publication that they have correctly thought of as belonging to them, or that our new presence among the mainstream publications would mean that they have been left behind.

Our commitment to the black gay ***and lesblan*** community, to excellence in journalism, to integrity in advertising sales and to comprehensiveness of coverage are several things that haven't changed, even as the rest of the paper sees a number of transformations.

Starting with the new glossy cover (no more ink on your fingers) and high quality paper, BLK will have a new look and a new feel to it. The cover of BLK has always, since the magazine's inception, been a place of prestige, and it is only fitting and natural that it should be the best quality we could bring to you. You deserve it, we think, and we're proud to be able to give you the magazine that will grace your coffee table and office.

And especially heartening to those of you who have been waiting so patiently these last few months as we have incorporated these changes, is that BLK will now be coming out every two weeks instead of once a month. Only fitting that the news should get into your hands quicker, even more so now that BLK's new correspondents in New York and Washington, D.C. will provide more in-depth coverage of both the local scene and news of national importance.

Now you will be getting double the interviews and double the coverage that people are talking about. Mo' better news.

Hopefully, there will come a day when a major portion of BLK's news will not be related to AIDS. But so far BLK has done the job of informing the black community—long before Magic Johnson's announcement —that the heterosexual black press and the government have shirked.

Two hundred seven HIV-related articles have run in BLK, along with the statistics on HIV among African-Americans that should be required reading for those who think we spend too much time covering the subject. In addition, our obituary column has become a chronicle of how HIV has devastated our community, as well as making a record of the lives of the men and women behind those statistics. And on a lighter but just as heavy note, there's always been at least one safe sex cartoon in each issue. AIDS education isn't just a pamphlet or a seminar or a poster.

Graphic designer Ralf-E will be coming aboard as well, bringing a bag of Apples, double page displays and too many ideas. WordPerfect meet QuarkXpress.

In another technological breakthrough, BLK introduces its Talking Personals, the state-of-the-art in person-to-person contact. Now you will have 24-hour access to the private pages of BLK.

Because BLK has a special mandate as the information center of the black lesbian and gay community, with BLK's new information line, you'll never be further than your telephone from the community's most up-to-date listing of bars, clubs and organizations, from coast-to-coast.

BLK resisted the transition to being a paid publication for a long time because of our commitment to the community. Now, the challenge of getting BLK into eager, waiting hands mandates that we hit you up for $1.95, the same price as *Black Enterprise* and a buck and a half less than the *Advocate*.

One not insignificant advantage of our new distribution strategy is that BLK will be available in more towns and cities than ever before. It will be in liquor stores and shopping malls that refuse throwaways. But if you don't see BLK where you buy your favorite magazines, tell them! And tell us!

If you would like BLK delivered to your home in an envelope (and save money at the same time), subscribe. It's still the quickest and easiest way to get your own personal copy of BLK.

There will be, in addition, community centers, AIDS organizations and selected places across the country where folks can pick up complimentary copies of BLK just as they always have.

We're glad that everybody wins. Readers will get even more of the news and commentary they can't get anywhere else, from a perspective and point of view they know and trust.

The magazine that *L.A. Weekly* called, "the best new periodical, period." The magazine that gets praise and angry letters both from Members of Congress and homies in the 'hood. The magazine where adult means mature, informed opinions. The magazine that illuminates the diversity of the African-American lesbian and gay community... That's what BLK is all about.

If you've been hungry for your next copy of BLK before, get ready for bad news.

From now on, you're gonna be even hungrier.

OVERWHELMED?

Living with AIDS is hard. Asking for help is sometimes even harder. But did you know that there is a program that may provide you with financial assistance and it comes from a source you may never have thought of? It's the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program. Call APLA now at (213) 962-1600 extension 364 for more information.

Let Supplemental Security Income Benefits help you.

AIDS PROJECT LOS ANGELES

Public Benefits Forums are held the third Saturday of every month from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. RSVP The Education Department (213) 962-1600 extension 540

WORD UP

BY LEON MILLER

TO COLLECT AND BE SERVED

Three of the two dozen cops that stood by and watched while Rodney King got beat up by their fellow L.A.P.D. officers have filed worker's compensation claims. It seems the ordeal caused the poor unfortunates to suffer so much anxiety and stress that they can no longer work.

FINAL EXIT FOR GAY MEN

Jim Fouratt, a white gay activist and veteran of the New York club scene, and Professor Griff of the rap group, Public Enemy, got into it during one of the panels at the New Music Seminar last month.

During the panel, "Business Meeting on Racism," Fouratt asked where he fit in the fight against white supremacy "as a non-black, gay male." Stating that God didn't intend for there to be homosexuals, Griff said, "As far as where you fit in is concerned, you [should commit] suicide."

And, believe it or not, scary as it seems, the crowd applauded Griff.

FAST FOR CIVIL RIGHTS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

Did we hear this correctly? New Hampshire, one of the two states that does not recognize the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., has found a way to honor him without costing the taxpayers any money—so they say.

Fast Day has been a paid holiday for New Hampshire since 1681, but alas, no more. The third Monday in April will now become "Civil Rights Day." The date the *rest* of these United States celebrates MLK Jr. day, on the third Monday in January, will be honored, but employees are expected to show up for work.

In 1992, incidently, the first observance of the new Civil Rights Day holiday will fall on April 20, Adolph Hitler's birthday.

MULTICULTURALISM, EXCEPT FOR LESBIANS AND GAY MEN

For years, Dr. Leonard L. Jeffries, Jr., chairman of the African-Amercian Studies Department of City College of New York, has charged that the U.S. educational, legal, economic and cultural system were built around white supremacy. But he became the center of a firestorm of controversy last month over comments he made about Jewish movie moguls in a speech at a state-sponsored black arts festival in Albany, N.Y. when excerpts from his address found their way into the *New York Post*.

"For years I grew up as a youngster, just like you did, going to movies where the African peoples were completely denigrated," said Dr. Jeffries. "That was a conspiracy, planned, plotted and programmed out of Hollywood, where people called Greenberg and Weisberg and Trigliani and whatnot. Were're not being anti-Semitic to mention who developed Hollywood. Their names are there. MGM—Metro, Goldwyn, Mayer, Adolph Zukor. Fox. Russian Jewry had a particular control over the movies. And their financial partners, the Mafia, put together a system of destruction of black people."

The days and weeks that followed haven't been the best for black-Jewish relations in the Big Apple with charges and counter-charges from both sides that Dr. Jeffries was being courageous in telling the truth, or he was grandstanding to nudge along his career.

The controversy raged on not only what he said, but his right to say it. Ultimately it's one more debate over multiculturalism, political correctness and free speech, not likely to be resolved soon.

Although Dr. Jeffries has emerged as a strong advocate for multiculturalism within academia, it's not clear that his idea of inclusion extends to black lesbians and gay men.

"The whole concept of homosexuality comes out of the value system of the caves that came out of Europe," he told Dorothy Rabinowitz in an unpublished *New York* magazine interview conducted in the spring of 1990. "That system is based on the male principle, men loving men as fighting men. That's the Valhalla. That's the Nazi. That's the Greek. That's the Roman legion. That's the Catholic Church. That's not the value system Africans gave to the world, which is the duality of male and female."

No immediate word on Dr. Jeffries's theories on lesbianism, or how he explains the existence of gay men and lesbians in African who don't have any European values.

SINGLE, GAY AFRICAN-AMERICAN FATHERS

Cartoonist Jules Feiffer, known for his wry wit, has long been a thorn in the side of conservatives. Recently, he took the black gay community as a subject.

Unfortunately, Mary Suggett at Universal Press Syndicate (4900 Main St., Kansas City, MO 64112) won't let us show you the cartoon in its entirity. But if you send us (Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083) a stamped, self-addressed envelope, we'll send you a photocopy.

BUT I HAD PROFOUND DIFFERENCES WITH WHITE GAY SINGLE FATHERS.
SO I BROKE OFF INTO A GROUP OF SINGLE GAY FATHERS.
BUT HAD PROFOUND DIFFERENCES WITH THE SINGLE STRAIGHT FATHERS.
I BELONGED TO A GROUP OF SINGLE FATHERS.
SO I BROKE OFF INTO A GROUP WITH
WHO AGREES WITH ME ON EVERYTHING

BLK MAIL

BASHING WHITNEY HOUSTON

Dear Editor:

After seeing the Canseco/Baines photo ["Word Up," BLK, June 1991], it becomes a mystery to me why you continue to flog a neurotic equine such as Whitney what's-her-name. The world of sports provides much more fertile ground.

Joe Shuck
Seattle

Dear Editor:

Why is it that your publication is so preoccupied in producing allegations and stories pertaining to Whitney Houston's sexual identity? Have some of your writers taken on the identity of those that have always oppressed the black gay/lesbian community? These "mini" stories about Whitney's sexual identity are in poor taste and lack black gay/lesbian community sensitivity.

Whitney Houston is a source of pride and inspiration to *all* folks with her creative talents in communicating with a gift that was bestowed upon her. Each time she records and gives live performances, she creates a vulnerability that few people have or wish to share regardless of how large or small the subject matter. Why should Whitney have to give all of herself when she is already giving more of herself than most folks? She deserves to maintain some of herself for herself.

Lee Middleton
San Francisco

The editor replies: Unlike most allegedly lesbian or gay celebrities who refuse to confirm or deny their sexual preference, or who deny it a few times then move on to other things, Whitney Houston has made it a point to deny it over and over and over again in as many venues as possible. That's what made the denials—not her sexuality—news. It was because she kept bringing it up (and denying it) that Leon Miller kept bringing it up (and reporting her denials). In each instance, he did not "out" her. He simply reported her latest denial.

(She no longer specifically denies the allegations. These days, she says it's no one's business, a point we can get down with.)

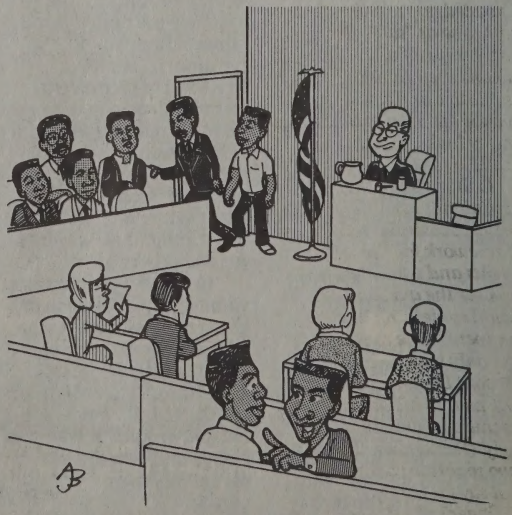
The lesbian folk singer doesn't talk about it. The gay television newsman doesn't talk about it. The gay comedian into drag queens doesn't talk about it. And so Leon Miller has nothing to report about these celebrities. People who don't want press shouldn't hold press conferences.

HANDSOME, BLOND SERIAL KILLER

Dear Editor:

I am writing in response to your article "Blacks Ponder Meaning of Dahmer" [BLK, July 1991], written by Associate Editor Mark Haile. I was immediately disturbed, when in the beginning of this article you mentioned that Dahmer was "a handsome, blond gay man, who easily lured victims to his home." Whether he was "handsome" or not is very debatable, but this seems to suggest that his victims were lured to him because of his "handsome" appearance or "blond" hair which is ridiculous, especially since 17 of the 18 victims were murdered and unable to give credence to this statement, or the psychosocial reasons behind their involvement with this "ugly" monster. It is also interesting to note that Mr. Haile's article is the first article that I have read where a reporter, out of all the descriptive words that could have been used to describe this "man," chose to use the word "handsome" and to focus on his "blond" hair (beauty is in the eye of the beholder).

Tracy Edwards, the one brother that was able to escape Dahmer, stated in his interview with Geraldo Rivera that Dahmer repeatedly commented on "how beautiful he was" (Sound familiar?). Is Dahmer simply an extreme case of what so many black men who love men have been experiencing, from white men who have lusted after us for so long? Is Mr. Haile's observation that Dahmer was "handsome" because of his



"Looks like a hung jury."

appearance (white and blond) reminiscent of Dr. Alvin F. Poussaint's study of the black doll vs. the white doll, causing many of us, because of our oppression, to seek out the likes of Dahmer only to end up physically, mentally or culturally murdered?

Joe Hawkins
National Coordinator
Black Men's Xchange
Oakland, Calif.

*The editor replies: Mark Haile did not write that Jeffrey Dahmer was handsome **because** he was white and blond, he gave two independent descriptions of the killer, "handsome" and "blond." The two words were not causally connected (i.e., blond = handsome). It is possible to be handsome and dark-haired, or blond and ugly.*

Every word that appears in BLK or the New York Times or Essence or BMX publications that does not have a specific, measurable referent like 18 inches, or 27 elephants, assumes a shared body of knowledge. Not shared standards. Or agreed upon truths. But shared knowledge. We can refer to someone as "tall" and have some sense of what that means even though the term is relative and not everyone would agree on exactly how many inches constitutes "tall."

*Dahmer's physical description is essential to the article because it sets a framework for the ugly events and utimately helps answer the question, "How could something like this happen?" One reason (not the only reason, but one reason) Dahmer could entice men to his apartment is because he was not fat and ugly. (Remember, these are two separate concepts. I did not say fat = ugly.) Secondly, Dahmer's physical appearance helps explain why the two policemen believed Dahmer when they confronted him with the naked, bleeding 14-year-old who was subsequently found dead. Not only were the **white** officers more likely to believe a **white** man, but they were more likely to believe a **handsome, blond** white man, than they would a **fat, ugly** white man. What is ridiculous is not to recognize the forces of institutional racism and looksism (and possible internalized self-hate on the part of some of the victims) at work here. Mark Haile sought to bring that consciousness to the reader by fully describing the situation. And if the other media failed to recognize the privilege that accompanys being handsome and blond in America—the same largely heterosexual, white media responsible for the creation and maintenance of a standard of beauty that is unrealistic for the majority of the human race—fault them, not us. Don't damn the messenger because you don't like the message.*

Finally, for all the talk in the mainstream press about Dahmer's racism and homophobia, your comment that Dahmer might be an extreme case of the well-documented lust some white men have for black men is right on the mark.

If you wish to have a letter considered for publication, address it to BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, California 90083-0912. You may also send letters by fax, 24-hours, seven days a week: 213-410-9250. Keep your letter brief, and be sure to include your full name, address and telephone number for verification. Names will be withheld from publication on request. Letters may be edited for purposes of space or clarity.

BLK

THE NATIONAL BLACK LESBIAN AND GAY NEWSMAGAZINE

Vol. 3, No. 9, Whole No. 34

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ON THE COVER: Patti LaBelle. Photo by Marc Raboy.

BLK PEOPLE

LOS ANGELES Larry Duplechan appeared in West Hollywood and Silverlake to read from his contribution to *Common Voices* and his new novel, *Captain Swing*.

WASHINGTON Bob Williams has been elected BWMT's new national co-chair for the remaining term of former co-chair, John Teamer.

DALLAS Rick Pittman knows all about leather because he sells it at Shades of Grey.

SAN DIEGO Louis Sands, Bill Thompson and McCoy Fuller are part of AIDS Foundation San Diego's Street Outreach Team.

LOS ANGELES Ayofemi Folayan, writer, performance artist and activist, has been awarded an artist-in-residence grant from the California Arts Council to teach "Writing as a Healing Art" classes at the department of education of the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center.

CHICAGO Carol A. Johnson, Ortez Alderson and Max C. Smith were inducted into the city's Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame during a ceremony hosted by Mayor Richard Daley.

DETROIT Wayne Preston Chambers was the guest on the *Ninge Zola Show* on WDET, performing a piece from his one man performance, *Triptych*.

LOS ANGELES Lamond Ayers, Gilberto Gerald, Rashidah Hassan, A. Billy S. Jones, Juan Ledesma, Steve Lew, Mike Moreno, Sabrina Sojourner, Reggie Williams, Phill Wilson and Donald Woods were among the speakers at the National Skills Building Conference, Oct. 31 through Nov. 2 at the University Hilton.

NEW YORK Writers Rory Buchanan, Reginald T. Jackson, Charles R. P. Pouncy and Donald Woods read from their works Sept. 15 at Kinapps new hair salon in downtown Manhattan. The program also featured vocal performances by Dana Rose and Dawud.

RICHMOND, Va. Mandy Carter, lesbian activist, was keynote presenter and emcee of September Richmond Pride Festival.

NEW YORK Aaron Ashby is the community relations planner for Gay Games IV/Unity '94.

WICHITA Delores Berry, vocalist, preacher and UFMCC minister, held a gospel concert at First Church on Sept. 7.

PHILADELPHIA Rodney Dooley of Philadelphia Lesbian and Gay Task Force distributed information to visitors during Unity Day.

WISCONSIN Dominique Mahon, Miss Gay Continental Wisconsin, represented her state for the Miss Continental title in Chicago over the Labor Day Weekend.

LOS ANGELES Dr. Sylvia Rhue met with producers of the hit NBC comedy *Dear John* to consult for the program on the lesbian character that is considered to be one of the best gay or lesbian characters on TV. Dr. Rhue was also interviewed by *TV Guide* and *Entertainment Tonight* about her participation in the program.

DALLAS Raps hosted the second annual Miss North Texas of America pageant in August. First runner-up was Lady P.T. and second runner-up was Lysha Carey.

AUSTIN Check the turntables at Nexus and you might find DJ Misha Spruell.

NEW YORK Bill T. Jones is the director/choreographer of the NYC Opera production, *Mother of Three Sons*.

BOSTON Tina Portillo is editor of *Dykescapes*, an anthology of short fiction by lesbians published by Alyson.

CHARLESTON, S.C. Earth Carroll was the prime mover behind the Women of Color National Network and Conference formed following the National Lesbian Conference in Atlanta.

HOUSTON Ricky Phillips at the Chateaux Dijon rental office will show you the apartment complex's various floor plans.

CHICAGO Bartenders George Flagg and Shay Ramirez are on hand to serve at Pangea.

PHILADELPHIA Videomaker Cheryl Dunye was profiled in the *Advocate* in September.

WASHINGTON Thomas Gleaton has been selected to head the Inner City AIDS Network following the resignation of Alexander Robinson.

DALLAS County Commissioner John Wiley cast the only vote against moving a controversial polling place from the Gay Community Center. Critics had demanded the move because of low voter turnout.

CHICAGO Competing in the Mr. Windy City Contest are Christopher Fagan, Mr. Jeffrey Pub; Harrison Townsend, Mr. Clubhouse and Jim Murray, Mr. Chicago House.

WASHINGTON Poet Venus Thrash read from her works at Encore recently.

BOULDER, Colo. San Franciscans Earl Bryant and Frank Demby were among the athletes competing in the fifth Rocky Mountain Masters Track and Field Championship.

SAN FRANCISCO Speaking at a Sept. 7 forum on AIDS sponsored by the California/Nevada Conference of the United Methodist Church, Rev. Cecil Williams of Glide Memorial Church decried the AIDSphobia he saw in the African American church.

SAN ANTONIO Adrian Hill is the new volunteer receptionist at the San Antonio AIDS Foundation.

MILWAUKEE Rev. Jesse Jackson visited the site of Jeffrey Dahmer's murder spree, held a press conference and a memorial service while offering support to the lesbian and gay community.

NEW YORK Grace Jones was interviewed in the *Advocate* in September.

SEATTLE Bob Carter is the new program director for the Youth Center for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual young people.

MINNEAPOLIS Stephen Wade is the new clinical supervisor for the gay and lesbian counseling unit at Family and Children's Service.

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La Belle Epoque

The BLK Interview
by D. J. Marius

It's not every day that you pick up the phone and a legend speaks. "Hello. This is Patti LaBelle. Am I too early, too late or what?"

Patti LaBelle has been "on time" in nearly everything she's ever done. Her career has moved in so many different directions that some may have lost sight of her momentarily, but she always seems to arrive when and where she's s'posed to be.

Recording artist, humanitarian, actress (movies, television, Broadway), wife, mother, mentor, diva! Born in Philadelphia in 1944, LaBelle's interest in the arts manifested itself early. Southwest Philly buzzed in the '50s and '60s with the sounds of jazz, gospel, soul and funk cross-pollinating one another, and Patti was a busy bee. Although at school she did drama, glee club and track, her singing in the Beulah Baptist Church choir pointed in the direction of her future.

The doo-wop musical era raided the choir, and led to the formation of the "girl group" Patti LaBelle & the Bluebells, composed of LaBelle, Nona Hendryx, Sarah Dash and Cindy Birdsong (whose future lay with the Supremes). Their very first hit single was "I Sold My Heart (to the Junkman)" in 1962. Rock 'n roll fans chose them to be one of the girl groups of the period, and sent them to Europe to gather momentum.

From there Patti moved on to the ground-breaking, outrageous trio LaBelle. Sarah, Nona and Patti turned the limelight into starlight as they welded together incredibly diverse audiences—black, white, straight, gay—in the name of "live" (in more ways than one) entertainment. LaBelle the group climbed the charts and balanced on the pinnacle of success, whereupon LaBelle the singer found herself dizzy and decided it was time for a break. She spent time with her family, time with herself and decided to blaze a path to success rather than merely follow one.

On the strength of advice from her manager (and husband of 21 years), Armstead Edwards, and

LaBelle's longtime producer and musical director, "Budd" Elison, she went solo.

And she went on stage. She joined Al Green in Vinette Carroll's Your Arms Too Short To Box With God, where her gospel and dramatic powers got into full harness with her voice. The Broadway hit took her on tour all over the country and back to Europe.

Musically, LaBelle also branched out, working with a wide variety of performers, either as a guest vocalist or as part of a duet. Grover Washington, Jr., Bobby Womack and Michael McDonald come to mind when recalling some of her more memorable musical collaborations. It is also widely known that she enjoys a very special relationship with Luther Vandross—one of the few male singers who can match her vocal power and ability to whip crowds into a frenzy. Live performances suit LaBelle perfectly. On the NBC's Emmy-winning Motown Salutes the Apollo, she stopped the show in a stunning duet with Michael Bolton.

Out of the limelight, she's "just Patti." Ever one to give, she is involved in a number of charities, including Big Sisters of America, Save the Children, the United Negro College Fund and groups working for foster care and battling AIDS. Having recently lost both parents and three sisters, fighting disease is a particularly strong commitment. She currently serves as national spokeswoman for the Black Health Research Foundation, an organization dedicated to battling premature death among African-Americans.

We find Patti LaBelle in 1991 in charge of her life, a sophisticated yet boisterous existence, finely tuned, operating at full throttle. Excess went out with the '80s, and Patti has changed with the times. No more tubular nails, fanned-out hairdos or Alcoa Wrap costumes. "Just Patti" is just right the way she is, the way she's become—looking and sounding better than ever.

Black lesbians and gay men are possessive about Patti. We feel we own her. No, we weren't first to discover her, just first to love her. We didn't give her her start, but we kept her going. When others said she was too frenzied, too flashy, too crossover, we called for more, more, more. There's something about the way she struts and grabs and wants to be loved that we understand. Patti speaks out language. And is heard. For us, there's no question about what time it is. It's Patti time, and we live in the gayest of eras, LaBelle Epoque.

The last time we saw you perform in the Bay Area, you had on a silver two-piece outfit that Donna Karan had done especially for you, and you were *wearing* it!

(laughs) Yeah, those are very nice and easy things to work in. You know, understated in a way, without being outrageous, which I've been staying away from as much as possible.

Are you taking a new direction?

Yes. You know, the hair and the clothes, and all those wonderful things, I mean, I've done them. And then to keep on doing them, you can't repeat yourself too much.

Tell us about your career, and where you think you've come thus far. It seems as though you've done it all, seen it all, been everywhere.

Well, I've done a lot. And I can say that I'm pleased with the things that I've done, and very blessed and fortunate to be able to do the things that I'm doing. And always to be asked to do interviews, and to do TV, and to do radio, and to do concerts. The way it is now for women my age (LaBelle is 47), it's really hard to get *arrested* these days. I just thank God for everything that I have coming my way, and things seem to, you know, keep coming.

Do you think that's because the business is more competitive now, or more image-intensive?

It's not that it's competitive, it's just that people are... it's just hard to get something these days, as far as a record deal. Record companies aren't taking too many chances. Money is scarce, and if they're going to give you the chance, they have to know you can deliver. It's just really rough.

Let's get into your rapport with your audience. You are truly like no other performer. In concert, it's almost like you're having these people over to your house.

I know. That's what it feels like. When I do go on stage, every night that I perform, I leave saying "Thank *you*" to the audience because they made my day, and my night. They've given as much, or more, than I've given them. I mean, they give me so much love, so much emotion, and so much appreciation that I just feel like I can't wait to get on stage every night.

And I go out there intending to bring people together. Like, if there are black people and white people out there, which there always are. If there are gay and straight people, I always go out with the intent of making the straight person sitting next to the gay, end up not feeling so afraid of them, or afraid of the black that's sitting next to them. I mean, letting them see that we all can be *one* if we try ...you know, it's not hard.

It's a disease! And the folks who can, they just have to give it up, and I'm talking about the bucks!

You've said before that some "rough children" come to your shows.

Yeah, everybody. I mean, it's a melting pot. You know, I have a very blessed crowd, from all ages and everything. I have *all* kinds of people out there. That's what I love about my audience.

What kind of things do you do to get your audiences involved in the show?

Well, when I do sing "Wind Beneath My Wings" or "You Are My Friend" or "Imagine," sometimes I've seen audiences cry together, or pass the hankie down. You know, they just feel it together. I can't really explain it...I probably didn't even answer your question! *(laughs)* You know, it's from the heart. It's really from my *heart*. I know that sometimes they end up on stage on "Lady Marmalade" together, sharing the microphone, and just sharing the space. It just shows you that we can share things. We can do things together.

People get a little too carried away. They think it's their show!

I don't mind, let 'em! For that moment, they can...and it is, for that moment, their show. And I don't mind giving it up. I don't mind!

Let's talk about some of your long-standing friendships. You have a great relationship with Dionne Warwick and Gladys Knight. How did that start?

Well, we've known each other forever. Gladys had the idea to do *Sisters in the Name of Love* (the TV special starring all three). She called on Dionne and myself, and we both said yes because it was a great idea. And it's showing, too, that black women can work together, you know, without beating each other up.

When Gladys was on the cover of *Essence*, she talked about your friendship, noting that you are a very "at home" type of person, that you love being at home with your family, and that Dionne was very "Beverly Hills."

Well that's what I am, very much a homebody. I just finished cooking dinner, then I called you. I just love doing this kind of stuff.

I got a whole lotta butt to kick.

It's too bad we're not there in person!

I know! It's *good*, too! *(laughs)*

What do you like to cook. What are some of your best dishes?

I love making pasta. With so much garlic, basil and oregano. And hot stuff! But I do really good Italian.

How do you find time with all the traveling and performing?

It's in my blood. And, you always find time ...I mean, there are 24 hours in a day. You use 22, and have two to do something else. *(laughs)*

Arsenio Hall started his career on the road touring with you.

Yes. He opened the shows in Vegas and Atlantic City. He needed management, so my husband managed him for a while. We were very close with him, and we're still good buddies. And he thanks me a lot for some of the things that he's gotten in this business because of the ways he's watched me. Like, he watched on the side every night...he would stand on the side every night and watch my rapport with the audience, so that he learned a lot from watching. I'm happy that he got something out of it!

Your husband manages you also.

Yes, he does.

Your relationship is famous. It's weathered everything that your career has gone through. What's been the key to that?

The key to our staying together is that we ignore each other! *(burst of laughter)* No, actually when he comes in from work, he goes upstairs, and I'm in the

basement usually. He'll eat his dinner, and we'll talk for a few minutes. He'll go to bed, and I'll stay up all night! When he gets up in the morning, I'm in bed. We see each other and we talk, but he's a very good man. So, I'm just joking when I say we ignore each other. We don't have any problems, we're pretty blessed.

How old is Zuri (her youngest son) now?

Zuri is seven...Zuri's 17.

A *man*, huh?

Un huh!

We remember when he was born...

Yeah... *(laughs)* Oh yeah. I'm serious, he's a big, fine man now.

He's the youngest...how old are the other two boys?

You know what? I am so bad with that! My two adopted sons are 26 and 31, I think. And they're gonna kill me if I'm wrong! But my niece and my nephew (Stacey and Billy), who are now my kids also, are 25 and 27, I think.

With Zuri being the youngest, how was it for him having you on the road? Did he go with you?

Yes, he went with me. A lot of the time, my husband would bring him out. If not, my husband would be here with him. He never felt neglected. We were always able to work out my schedule so that I could still be the mother...and the singer.

So it wasn't hard for him to share you with the world?

At times, it probably was hard for him but he moved right along! He didn't give me any demands, thank God. He's pretty cool.

Let's talk about your prominence in the gay community, especially the African-American gay community. Why do you think there has been such a strong link?

I don't know. And I've never questioned it, I just hope it always stays. I just don't know ...maybe they relate to my honesty, or my outrageousness. I don't really know what it is...I don't know!

Everything that we've heard concerns the fact that you're so real and so down-to-earth.

Well, I hope that's what it is, and I hope to always be that way. Real and down-to-earth, never holding anything back...being myself...and never discriminating. I don't really know why, but I do have this wonderful following.

The hair is there, the drag, the show, everything but they know there's a real Patti underneath, and that's the key. They come to see *you*.

They really do, and I feel really good about it. You can't buy that...it's better than a Grammy!

Are you good friends with Magic Johnson? Do you know him well?

Yes, I know him well... *(long pause)* and I feel awful about it (Johnson's recent disclosure about being HIV-positive). And I guess this is the way that God has...well, you know, maybe he's a tool to help wake up everybody. It's sad that it had to happen this way, but I guess the Lord works in mysterious ways. It's a shame that people were so ignorant before this...and maybe that wouldn't have happened. You just never know...I feel really badly about it. But hopefully, people will start doing something now.

We can hope, and Magic probably feels, that good will come out of it still. You were also very close with Sylvester and very instrumental in his career.

Oh yeah. My man, Sylvester. He looked more like a woman sometimes than me! I'm serious, honey, when he put on that stuff...I looked at a few pictures of him and said, "Is that me?" *(laughs)* No, sometimes I would look at Sylvester and think it was me...I did! I loved Sylvester.

One of your album's liner notes said, "Sylvester, you will *never* be forgotten!"

PARTIAL DISCOGRAPHY

"I Sold My Heart (to the Junkman)"
(single)
Patti LaBelle & the Bluebells

"LaBelle"
LaBelle
(Warner Bros.)

"Moon Shadow"
LaBelle
(Warner Bros.)

"Pressure Cooker"
LaBelle
(RCA)

"Nightbirds"
LaBelle
(Epic)

"Phoenix"
LaBelle
(Epic)

"Chameleon"
LaBelle
(Epic)

"Released"
Patti LaBelle
(Epic)

"The Spirit's In It"
Patti LaBelle
(Epic)

"Winner In You"
Patti LaBelle
(MCA)

"Be Yourself"
Patti LaBelle
(MCA)

"This Chrismas"
Patti LaBelle
(MCA)

"Burnin'"
Patti LaBelle
(MCA)

That's for sure...never!

What are some of the things that someone in your position, who has an influence on young people, can do to educate young African-Americans on the HIV virus?

Well, we can start talking *to* them much, much more, and saying things that Magic has to say now. We can say the things that he's saying now, not that it's happened to some of us, but put ourselves in his position. Let the kids know that it could easily happen to us...it could easily happen to them. It's something that we can't play with. I mean, falling in love sometimes today is like falling in death. It's just... scary. It could happen to anybody. People have been so prejudiced and awful about it because they've always heard that it was a gay disease, or a black disease, or a drug user's disease. It's a *disease*. We all have to wake up and smell the coffee, and just start being a little more aware of what we do to ourselves, and how we do it and who we do it with. And, the folks who can, they just have to give it up, and I'm talking about the bucks! They know who they are!

What are some of the charities that are near to your heart?

All of 'em...AIDS, cancer, homelessness, adoption, Save The Children. Anything you could name, I think I'm involved!

You've lost people very close to you to cancer in pretty rapid succession. Can you talk about how you were able to carry on?

I just knew that I had to keep on going. I knew they really would want me to. They would not want me sitting around here moping and feeling sorry for myself. I know that their memory will always be here. It's their memories that keep me going. You know, they were very proud of me, and it's hard everyday, of course it's hard. But, you get up and do what you have to do.

You lost two of your sisters to cancer?

Three.

Patti (right) with hairdo creator Norma Harris Gordon.

Falling in love today is like falling in death.

And your father recently?

My mother and father, to Alzheimer's and a stroke.

It does take a terrible toll, but you know that wherever they are, they would want you to continue.

Oh, of course they do. And I'm not gonna let them down. I got a whole lotta butt to kick.

What was the first single as Patti LaBelle and the Bluebells?

"I Sold My Heart (to the Junkman)."

Since then, you've moved in so many different directions...LaBelle was totally out there! Mom wouldn't let us go see LaBelle because you were too wild! And Lady Marmalade had to be kept hidden because Mom wasn't going for that either.

Not at all! *(laughs)* We were totally outrageous! Yeah, those were the days.

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How did your appearances on *A Different World* come about?

Debbie Allen. She asked me to do some acting and I said yes. I'm glad I did, because I really enjoy it. We have another one coming out on the 21st of November.

Is this the show with Diahann Carroll?

Yes.

How was working with her?

Very nice. She's a wonderful lady.

You've known each other for quite a while?

Yeah, we've known each other, but we would see each other at affairs. This is our first time working together. It's gonna be fun.

What's on the horizon for you? I remember your role in *A Soldier's Story*. Do you want to do more films?

Oh yes, I'll do more films. If the right script comes along, I'll definitely do more. Right now, I'm gonna concentrate on the music.

If there was one thing that you could accomplish right now, something that you haven't done that you've always wanted to do, what would it be?

Take a big wand, and wave it over the world and wipe out prejudice. That's something that I've not done...that's what I'd like to do. And wipe out hunger, and wipe out AIDS. *(long pause)* And cancer...I would just like to wipe out disease and racism. And all prejudice. Like I said, so many people are prejudiced against this, and against that...prejudiced against gays, prejudiced against blacks. If we could just wipe out some of that hatred, that's what I'd like to do that I haven't done. But, I don't really think I'm gonna get a wand big enough to do that, so I'll keep hoping.

As you look back on the wide variety of material you've done, is there a favorite album or single of yours?

I know Magic well. I guess this is the way that God has... maybe he's a tool to help wake up every body.

I don't listen to any of my albums. I don't listen to any of my music once it's out, unless it's to learn a song. *(laughs)* I'm serious, I really don't listen to my music. Once it's done, it's *done*. You know, I've loved everything I've done, but I don't go back and listen to too many things.

Who are some of the artists that you're listening to now?

I don't listen to anybody. I don't have a stereo! *(laughs)* I don't play music at all. My husband has one, and my son, but I don't know how to work their stuff! *(laughs again)* And I really don't play music! Honestly, I don't, and that's awful. But like I said, when I'm at home, I cook and I clean, and I look at TV. Or I will sleep! When I'm in a car, I'll listen to the radio, but that's usually as far as it goes.

What do you want people to know about Patti LaBelle...When they hear your name, see your show, or listen to your album?

I want them to be left with the fact that they just witnessed a very honest woman, doing everything from the heart and giving 110 percent. And...just hoping that I've entertained you. I really would like for people to leave being thoroughly entertained, and *thoroughly* pleased. I would hate for anyone to leave, and want to go back to the counter to get their money back.

We doubt that would ever happen...

I hope not, but I think about that a lot. I always leave thinking, did I give them enough? That's what I really want you to leave with...enough of Patti LaBelle.

What color toilet paper do you use?

White! *(burst of laughter)* So there's a whole 'nother thing of black and white... the black butt with white paper! *(laughs again)* You know I'm not prejudiced! And two-ply! Two-ply, white toilet paper!

No discrimination there!

No! You know, I do have white paper...it goes with everything, it doesn't clash. It goes real good with black!

PHIL REED

A good race, but not good enough

BY ERIC K. WASHINGTON

"The people who live in the 8th Council District must elect a City Council member who respects their cultural differences and understands their common needs and fears," said Phil Reed, who ran for the seat in September. The native Harlemite has been an impressive community activist for years; impressive because the boundaries of his community are no less philosophical than they are geographical. "Where we are Hispanic, white, African-American, Asian, Jewish, gay, lesbian, straight, rich, middle-income or poor," Reed continued, "we are all New Yorkers and we must work together to make this city strong again."

What comes close to sounding like a laundry list is actually an accurate tally of Reed's constituency as a Democratic District Leader from Manhattan's Upper West Side. The neighborhood is a highly integrated portion of the greater 8th Council District he was campaigning to represent.

The 8th Council District comprises large sectors of both the Upper West and East Sides, El Barrio, Manhattan Valley, Park West Village, the South Bronx and all of Central Park. Its total population is approximately 53 percent Latino, 31 percent black, 14 percent white and two percent Asian. It is also a district whose boundaries the Justice Department has criticized.

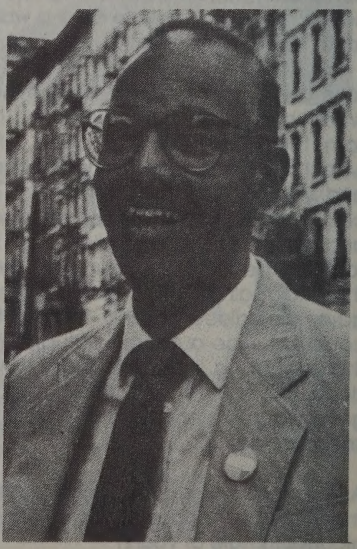
City charter changes approved by voters in 1989 reshaped the city's 35 Council districts to create 51 districts. The stated purpose of the redistricting was "to make the City Council more representative of the city's many diverse communities," according to official New York City Finance Board literature. But a press release from Reed's campaign office regarding the 8th District asserted that the boundaries were settled only after extensive discussion of how to maximize Latino voting strength in the District.

"Increasing the percentage of Latino voters is impossible," said Matt Benson, Reed's campaign manager. "Unless the Justice Department wants to cut up neighborhoods and housing projects in violation of their own guidelines."

Reed agrees. "The Justice Department's criticism of the 8th Council District boundaries is a transparent attempt to pit Hispanic residents against their Afro-American and white neighbors," he said. "The Republican administration in Washington will have a hard time convincing conscientious voters throughout the District that they should just accept any candidate, like Bill Del Toro, just because he's Latino, regardless of whether that candidate is honest and competent," he said in reference to a leading challenger, William Del Toro, an East Harlem District Leader who was once convicted for misuse of federal anti-poverty funds.

Apart from being born and raised in Harlem and the Upper West Side, Reed has years of community activism under his belt. As president of a Harlem block association in 1982, he led the community in reclaiming the northern end of Central Park and secured more than $300,000 in City funds for park restoration. More recently, Reed, who is openly gay, has coordinated political campaign efforts with Gays and Lesbians for Jesse Jackson in 1984 and 1988, and Gays and Lesbians for David Dinkins in 1989. Beyond the borders of his home turf, Reed also is coordinator of the East New York HIV/AIDS Project in Brooklyn, which he founded. His platform advocated, among other things, supervised needle exchange, making hate crimes a felony, domestic partnership legislation and U.S. distribution of RU-486, which induces early abortions.

Nine candidates vied for the seat. Among the contenders for the 8th Council District seat were Adam Clayton Powell IV, son and namesake of the late Harlem congressman, who received the endorsement of the Majority Coalition for a New New York.



Reed's own supporters were as impressive as they were numerous. They included elected officials such as State Assembly members Deborah Glick, Jerry Nadler and Ed Sullivan; community leaders Sandy Lowe, Larry Kramer, Ronald Johnson and even Tom Duane, who was himself a candidate for City Council in District 3; and organizations such as the Broadway Democratic Club, Gay and Lesbian Independent Democrats and the National Women's Political Caucus.

Congressman Ted Weiss, who served for 15 years on the City Council from 1961 to 1976, also backed Reed. "I have worked with him closely on many issues affecting our community," said Weiss. "Phil Reed's commitment to progressive values and the politics of inclusion make him the clear choice in the 8th District." Weiss added, "Phil Reed has all the right qualities—intelligence, compassion, dedication—to get the job done."

Despite these credentials, on Sept. 12, Reed was not one of the top two vote-getters. Del Toro came in first with only 34 more votes than Powell. But lawsuits were promptly filed charging election fraud. Reed did a mailing to voters accusing Del Toro of stalling. On Oct. 22 appellate judges ordered a re-run between Del Toro and Powell for Oct. 28. Although 14,000 voters had cast ballots on Sept. 12, only 8,000 went to the polls again on Oct. 28. This time Powell decisively defeated Del Toro by a 72 percent to 28 percent margin.

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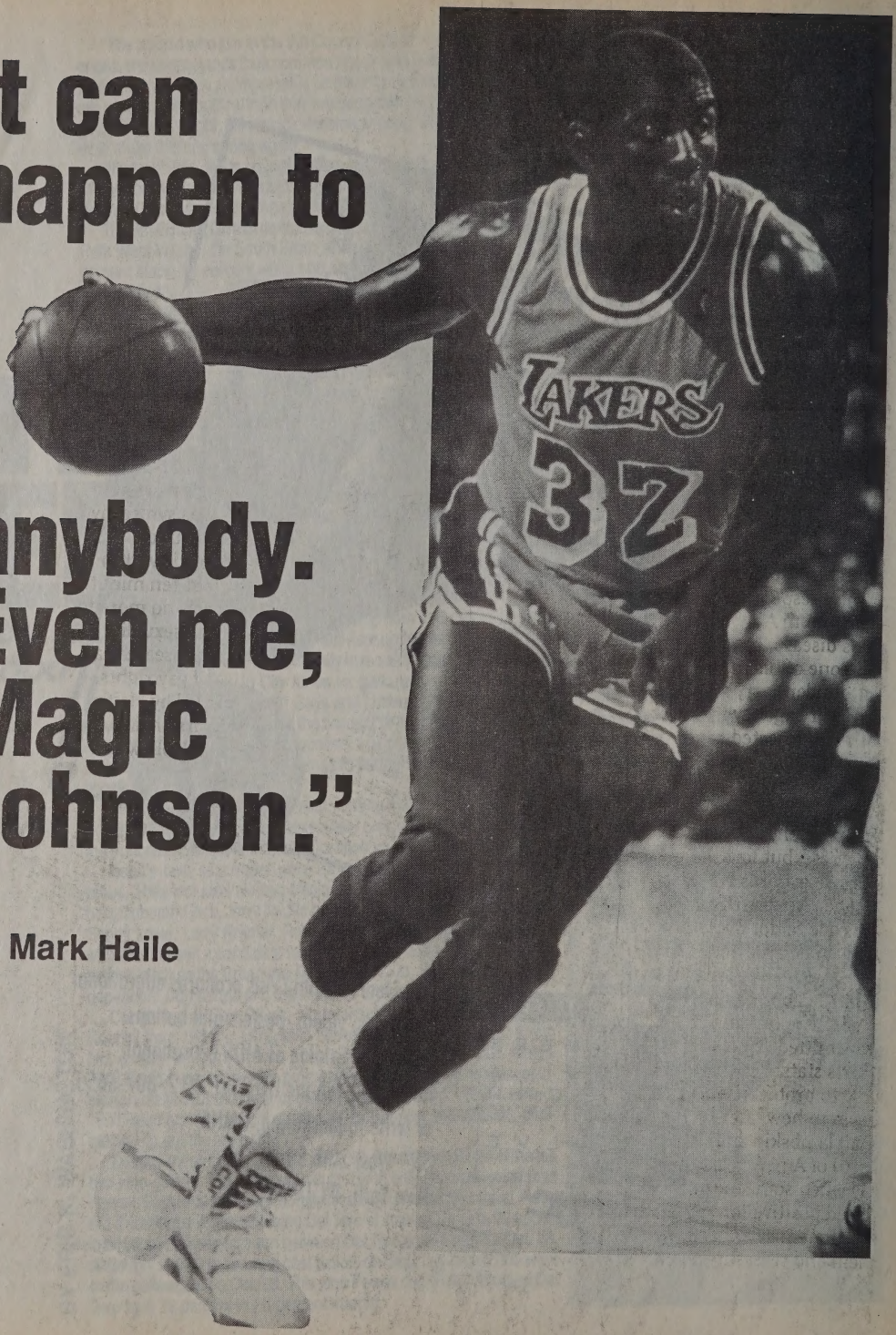
"It can happen to anybody. Even me, Magic Johnson."

By Mark Haile



By three o'clock in the afternoon, when Earvin "Magic" Johnson was to announce his retirement from basketball brought about by his testing positive for HIV, possibly all of America—certainly all of Los Angeles—already knew.

For hours, telephones, faxes and radio stations had burned with speculation in search of confirmation. Icarus had fallen. All work came to a stop. Every television station in the city interrupted their programming to cover the press conference. No one dared not care.

Johnson spoke of the need for rational thinking, calling for compassion without hysteria or undue concern, speaking with candor and frankness—up to the point of discussing his seroconversion. He would not be a "victim" at all, but pour his energies into preventative education. He was already obviously keen on how he alone might reach hundreds of thousands of young people—especially young African-Americans—for whom AIDS still remained someone else's disease. But no longer.

In one of his media tailored tirades, ACT-UP founder Larry Kramer had suggested that every agency in the country working with HIV infected people close down and allow the bodies of those with AIDS to pile up on the capitol steps. Of course, over 300 years of stacking the bodies of Africans and their descendants has not yet moved Congress, but fortunately, Magic's disclosure of his HIV status had done in seconds what AIDS activists had labored for a decade to do. Every American family now knew and cared about someone who was living with HIV, someone they could not shut the door on. More importantly, sports pages were explaining how the virus was transmitted. T-cell counts were added to the sports stats. Youth groups were discussing how to protect themselves from HIV, right down to how latex condoms were better than lambskin and why.

All of America asked at once, what do you say when someone you care for has just tested positive for HIV? And all of America got their answer back at once: you hug them and reasssure them, and reassure them again, that you'll be by their side.

Just to put the issue (presumably) to rest, Magic reiterated his heterosexuality at the press conference and again the following evening on nationwide television with his long time friend, Arsenio Hall. Fans in the audience applauded when Magic assured them he was not gay, a peculiar reaction to some. It was imperative for Magic's fans to continue to think of him, and all the attributes that have made him a superstar, a hero, and a very wealthy man, as heterosexual attributes. Yet Magic was not able—or not willing—to explain that to call himself not gay did not automatically equal anti-gay, to the discernment of lesbians and gay men everywhere, Whether heterosexual, bisexual, closeted or asexual, it was a dumb PR move.

At least, judging by his appearance on *Arsenio,* it seemed clear Magic's newfound status was not to be mistaken as sympathy for gay men with AIDS. As profound a difference as Magic Johnson made within the first 24 hours, even the first ten minutes of his revelation, it will probably do more to disassociate the stigma of homosexuality from people suffering with the disease than to actively further the cause of gay rights. That difference could be bridged by Magic himself in the months and years ahead.

Magic Johnson is far from a Hollywood celebrity who might embrace and abandon causes on a whim. He is first of all living with his new cause; and second, benefitting from treatment, knowledge and a support system put into place by many thousands of lesbians and gay men. For all the millions in the bank that mean Magic will never wait for hours in an overcrowded waiting room at 5P21, he has already acknowledged how it has come to be that there was any kind of treatment, medicines, protocol or counseling available for his condition. It's not up to Magic Johnson to personally pull out a checkbook and ensure that the Minority AIDS Project will be

"Because of the HIV virus I have obtained, I will have to retire from the Lakers today. I do not have the AIDS disease. My wife is fine. She's negative. I plan on going on living for a long time and going on with my life."

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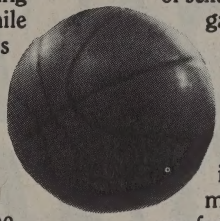
solvent, although he easily could, as much as it is important that he create a climate for a hundred organizations in minority communities to exist without the day to day struggle against ignorance and fear that dogged the pioneers in the first decade where America dealt with AIDS. Witness the power of Magic *merely saying* he would start a foundation to help fight the epidemic: within 48 hours he had received a half million dollars—without having asked anyone for a penny. This while patients with HIV line the hallways in inner city hospitals and some agencies struggle to keep their doors open.



At the National Minority AIDS Council's Annual Skills Building Conference, held in Los Angeles a week before Magic's disclosure, 600 activists and health care providers, doctors and people living with HIV shared all of their hard-won information with each other with a sense of urgency. That the epidemic was aimed at young people and at people of color was not news to them. That the government dragged its feet with its head in the ground was old news as well. That every agency in the AIDS field had to stretch money to do far more than was capable of doing, was already a reality for these people. They didn't pray for miracles; no one asked for a spokesperson to come forth like Magic Johnson. If Magic, through his silence, fails to include lesbian and gay communities of color, then they may find themselves, still, left out of the windfall.

One of the epidemics within the epidemic has been the community known to the HIV education experts as "non-gay identified men who have sex with men." Living just outside the reach of most of the agencies working with the lesbian and gay community, *especially* with the communities of color, getting the word out to them of their special risk status has been an exceptional challenge. Until Magic, there was no one who spoke to them, who looked like them, had their values, their language —and to listen to the hushed voices around Los Angeles, was maybe even one of them.

The white gay media relentlessly pursuing Magic's sexuality with fervor equal to that of the supermarket gossip rags, has forgotten or disregarded certain points that make Magic's non-disclosure of same-sex sexual experiences particularly important.

First, that there is a construction of sexuality far more elaborate than mere "straight" and "gay," especially in the black community. When coupled with the racism that is the history of this nation, that affects every aspect of life, the end result is a field of sexual identities for black lesbians and gay men that is identical to neither the white lesbian and gay community in America, nor the framework of sexual orientation as has been studied on the African continent. These "non-gay identified men who have sex with men" face incredible pressure to conform to a label as false as saying that any black child in Mississippi could grow up to be the President of the United States.

The result occurs when white ostensibly liberals act as though blacks *do* already have all the rights and privileges of being American. (A popular joke of a half century ago had a black man say to a white man, "I hear that the Japanese have declared war on y'all white folks.")

This community, categorized by what some labelers call their "denial," as a result suffers unknowingly from their diminished assumption for being at risk for HIV infection. Only when a figure such as Magic can say, "Yes, even I," can we find the appropriate role model they can identify with, and take to heart, which leads to the final point, of claiming or disclaiming hero status for Magic.

To many white gay activists, Magic is no hero. To the loved ones of people with AIDS, there have been over 150,000 heroes, multiplied by all the doctors and other health care workers, volunteers and friends, who all did unsung valiant acts of heroism by suiting up throughout the epidemic.

To some who have lost count of the friends and members of their families who have succumbed to AIDS, there is

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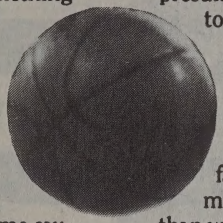
outright anger at the length of time it took America to take their disease seriously not to mention that the press conference of a basketball player is what made it happen. There is bewilderment as to how mainstream America could remain so ignorant until now, with 150,000 already dead and ten times that number living with the disease inside them.

The appearance of one more HIV positive person, albiet a famous one, is something they scarcely even have time to notice in between hospital visits, waiting at the pharmacy for prescriptions, fighting with social service agencies and insurance companies, and merely dealing with their own grief and loss.



Good, that it's someone of a stature such as Magic Johnson, some say. We got our hands full now, and there are more people getting sick every day. New volunteers are needed. More voices have to yell at the powers that be to shake a little compassion out of them. More folks should be committed, shaken out of their complacency, fired into action, than what the lesbian and gay, and HIV-impacted communities can reach realistically.

Magic Johnson, before Nov. 7, was not the unofficial saint of Ward 6800 of Los Angeles or Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York City or the Township AIDS Project in Soweto. He can become, yet, their hero, too, in addition to being the hero of sports lovers. He's somebody's hero, that's what counts. Even within the fudgy selective memory of his sexual history, Magic is serving a particular community that shares with him that trait. If he never does anything by the lesbian and gay community, he has saved us the task for having to educate our heterosexual black families, or reinforced that which we've been trying so hard for so long to get them to believe. He has already saved several hundred thousand young people from being added to the roles of the sick, the dying and the dead. Maybe even, he's inspired some of them to enlist in the fight.

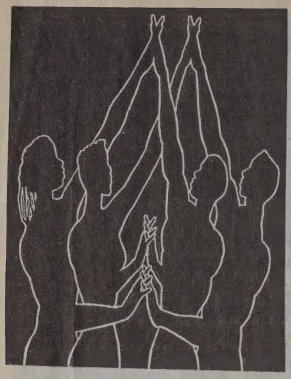
It would be nice, too, many in the community say, to have a Magic Johnson say, above and beyond all the good that he's done, that he was a gay man as well. Certainly many not famous black gay men have faced the same reality Magic Johnson now does. The black gay community, HIV-affected and not, could certainly use a role model of Magic's caliber.

There's a lot, after all, that goes with being a hero, and asking—or telling—someone of, say, Magic Johnson's stature to come out and say, "I'm gay," may be presuming that they really have it in them to be *that* much of a hero.

Magic Johnson's magic will fade with time, as did the magic of Frankie Robinson, Joe Louis, Roy Campenella, or any of the great sports figures whose reasons for fame stretched far and wide across a more ominious landscape of America than what we face today. That we could almost forget what it has taken for us to survive as a race in this hostile environment not yet fully civilized means that there will be many more Magics. There are more Sylvesters, more Patrick Kellys, more Willi Smiths yet to come also; if we don't get our Magics, well, we'll have them to be sure. Hopefully Magic will get the message, that if he can't be one of us, then he at least can be with us in solidarity.

The phones began ringing off the hook on the Friday now known as the Day the Magic Stopped at agencies that had no funds to speak of to fight the epidemic for the last ten years suddenly found out that everybody seemed to know their name. However, the battle with a recalcitrant, racist, homophobic government to do its share was far from over. There were probably a number of folks on vacation, fishing along some mountain lake, miles from the nearest radio or phone, that didn't hear the news. There might even be a few people who don't like basketball—or at least the Lakers; so the work is far from finished. A new era, however, the era of Magic, has definitely begun.

"I'm going to be a spokesman for the HIV virus helping young people to realize they can practice safe sex. You can be naïve. You think it will never happen to you. It has happened. I'll deal with it and my life will go on."



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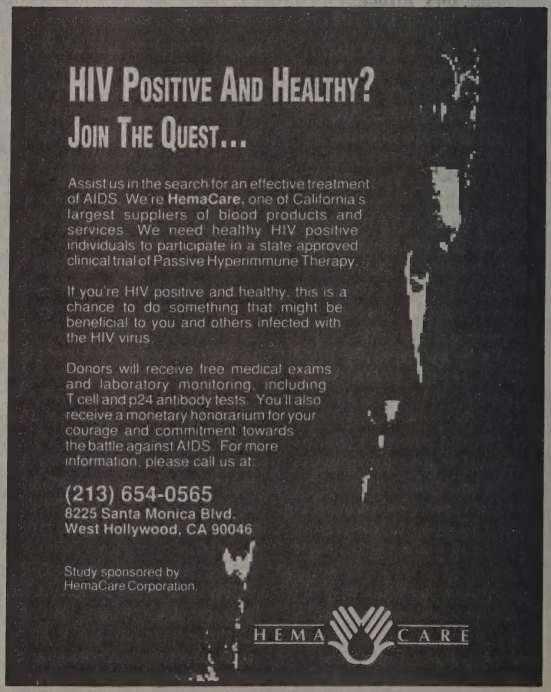
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CLARENCE THOMAS ON GAY RIGHTS

BY CORNELL MAKONNEN

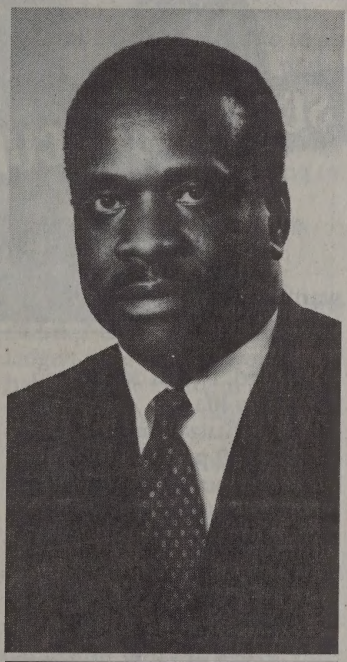
Since Clarence Thomas was confirmed as the replacement on the U.S. Supreme Court of retired Associate Justice Thurgood Marshall, unanswered questions about Thomas's views on gay issues seem all but forgotten. Although Thomas's hostility to remedies for racial, gender and age discrimination have been fully exposed, the black Republican's stance on homosexuality has barely been the subject of speculation.

Many black gays were dismayed because the division among African Americans regarding support for Thomas rigidified once Anita Hill's charges shifted the focus of the confirmation debate. In what some contended was a knee-jerk response, many blacks rose to Thomas's defense on the grounds that his conservative views were irrelevant once he was subjected to personal attack for sexual aggression, a charge historically directed at black men for racist reasons.

From this Afrocentric perspective Hill was either a traitor or a pawn employed by white character assassins. Support for Thomas became a matter of ethnic solidarity. Black lesbians and gays who argued that Hill's accusations re-enforced their fears that Thomas was certainly sexist and probably homophobic could be construed as vesting loyalty in their gender or sexual orientation rather than in their race.

Evidence of Thomas's homophobia was rather scanty. Even the mainstream gay press could do little better than run stories critical of Thomas based on a generalization of his unsympathetic attitude toward other discriminated against groups. Nonetheless there were some indications of Thomas's likely attitude which were largely, but not entirely discouraging.

Thomas had been on the appellate bench for less than a year and a half when he was nominated to the high court. Therefore he had written few decisions from which his judicial philoso-



phy could be gleaned. Virtually the only comment he made touching on issues likely to be raised in lesbian and gay rights litigation came in an ominous footnote he appended to a 1989 Harvard law journal article. With reference to the famous Griswold vs. Connecticut ruling, Thomas expressed "misgivings ...[about the] activist judicial use of the Ninth Amendment" wherein the Warren Court found an unprecedented right to privacy. Legal experts have long believed that the best constitutional case for lesbian and gay rights is embedded in the Ninth Amendment.

During his tenures as chairman of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and as Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at the Department of Education, Thomas did not have the authority to pursue cases of anti-gay discrimination because such conduct is not a violation of U.S. law. But his record on prosecution of complaints from women and racial minorities was notoriously poor: He rejected more than 50 percent of EEOC complaints compared to the Carter Administration which actively sought remedies or damages in more than 70 percent of complaints filed.

The one case in which Thomas may have shown some regard for the rights and dignity of lesbians and gays is under-documented. Thomas fired Angela Wright, a former employee of his who, like Anita Hill, alleged that he had sexually harassed her. Thomas claims he terminated Wright because she had, "referred to another male member of my staff as a faggot."

Wright's allegations were never taken as seriously as Hill's, apparently because she has a less impeccable professional and personal reputation. She submitted written testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee but was not invited to testify in person. Therefore, she was never publicly questioned about the circumstances of her termination.

To be sure, it is but a matter of time before it is known what the views of Clarence Thomas are on lesbian and gay rights and the U.S. Constitution. Some black lesbians and gay men are hopeful, just as are many other blacks that Thomas will, belatedly, remember who he is and what the needs of his people are. There is, after all, a brand of libertarian conservatism which maintains that government may not discriminate among citizens. But there is also a nightmare vision to be feared; that Clarence Thomas will be used by an increasingly intolerant America to articulate the Supreme Court's repeal of affirmative action on the one hand and the repudiation of lesbian and gay rights on the other.

By Rex Wockner and Mark Haile

SUMMER SUES, SCOFFS AT SCURRILOUS SLAMS

Disco diva Donna Summer is suing *New York* magazine for libel for reporting that eight years ago she told concert-goers that gays are sinners and AIDS is a divine ruling. Announcing her $30-million lawsuit Oct. 1 in Beverly Hills, Summer asserted: "I did not say it. I do not believe it."

BLK reported the *New York* allegations in its August issue.

In September of 1989, this reporter conducted a week-long investigation to determine whether Summer made anti-gay remarks during her 1983 concert tour, and found four concert-goers—who did not know each other and who were at two different concerts—who said that they personally heard Summer make the statements.

"I was at one of her last concerts at the Holiday Star Theater in Merrillville, Ind., in the fall of '83," said Chicago artist Michael Kutza. "She was terrific and at the end of the show said, 'If any of you want to talk to me afterward, I want to tell you about my life.'

"So," Kutza continued, "about 500 people stayed and she came out in her little tux and without her wigs...and started talking about finding Jesus.

"Now," Kutza said, "one little gay guy in front was screaming, 'I love you, Donna,' and she said, 'Are you gay?' and he said, 'Yes,' and she said: 'I can help you change your ways. AIDS is your punishment and you must change your ways.' She said this on stage to 500 people at the Holiday Star Theatre."

That's exactly what happened, agrees Chicago architect Dan Earles, who was at the same concert. "She came out and gave a little speech that was totally inappropriate—about how she'd been saved by God and how homosexuality is a sin," said Earles. "She was real derogatory. I walked out before she was done talking and haven't listened to her music since."

Village Voice contributor Jim Feldman says he heard Summer make anti-gay comments too, at a summer 1983 concert in Atlantic City, N.J. "I was assigned by the *Village Voice*...to review the 'She Works Hard for the Money' album and to cover a concert in Atlantic City," Feldman remembered. "At one point she was making some comments about boy-girl couples or something and some gay man raised his hand and she said: 'Oh, not you. After all, God made Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve.'

"Then," Feldman said, "a hush sort of fell over the concert for a moment and then she said, 'Oh, but I love you anyway'."

Long Island gay journalist Tom Dana, also present, recalls, "Yes, I remember the 'Adam and Eve not Adam and

Steve' thing," Feldman said. "She said it right there on stage during the concert."

Several times since 1983, Summer has tried to rekindle her popularity among the gay audiences credited for making her a superstar in the United States in the first place.

Brought up in a strict New England home where her father was a minister, Summer ran off to chase stardom on Broadway and in Europe. In the early era of disco, she earned the distinction of selling three million records without receiving any airplay on American radio stations—at the time thought essential to record sales. That feat alone brought Summer—and disco—to the attention of the mainstream music industry with heightened interest.

During the nearly eight years that Summer was a major figure in the recording industry prior to the incidents, her concerts and record sales were consistently top draws. She also gained a reputation for capricious behavior that included stopping a plane already taxiing on the runway because, she said, her horoscope told her to, before returning to the fundamentalist Christianity of her childhood.

As articles and word-of-mouth traveled worldwide about the 1983 concert tour, lesbians and gay men reacted with shock and disbelief. When the remarks were not denied, and even more anti-gay comments reported, Donna Summer records were pulled from gay discos and record stores from coast to coast. In some clubs that continued to play her music, patrons simply walked off the dance floor, or even went as far as to trash the juke box or DJ booth.

Eight years passed without Summer challenging the anti-gay remarks attributed to her, and she went from the Queen of Disco to an unprecedented persona non grata status in the lesbian and gay community. In response to why she waited so many years before reacting to the remarks, Summer's spokespeople said that she thought they were petty, vindictive comments that didn't deserve a response. She claimed that to have acknowledged the remarks would have only given them added validity that they didn't warrant.

Why sue now? Why *New York* magazine?

Summer said Oct. 1, "I would never say the things attributed to me in that [*New York* magazine] article...I must act to vindicate my name and to try to lessen the harmful effects that this article has had on me and others...My faith teaches me to love to the exclusion of no one. I am not here to make judgments on any group of people or persons."

Summer's lawsuit said the article has caused her "shame, mortification and emotional distress" and led some radio stations and dance clubs to boycott her new album. In line with the legal requirements for libel of a public figure in the U.S., the lawsuit charged that the article was "false and defamatory" and was published with "reckless disregard for the truth."

Summer and her children have received death threats since the article's publication, Summer's attorney said, and as a result she is too upset to work on taping a video for the new album.

New York magazine repeated the anti-gay charges against Summer in the context of an article alleging that Summer had decided against including a pro-gay song on her new *Mistaken Identity* album.

The magazine said the song—"We're Gonna Win" by openly gay singer and songwriter Paul Jabara—which Summer recorded in 1984 but never released, had been conceived as an apology to the gay community. Jabara wrote a number of songs for his friend Summer in the '70s.

But Summer said Oct. 1 that the song was recorded "at the beginning of the AIDS benefits [as an] act of good will to show I was willing to help" and is not on the new album solely because it is "seven years old."

She said it had not even been considered for the new album.

Gay activists expressed mixed emotions about Summer's lawsuit—saying it will be unfortunate for everyone if it turns out that she is lying but that it is a step forward for the gay movement that a pop-culture figure considers it libelous for a magazine to report that she is anti-gay.

New York magazine had no comment on the lawsuit except to say that it has yet to be served with a summons.

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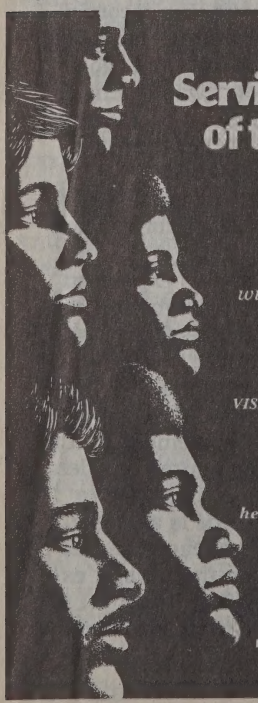

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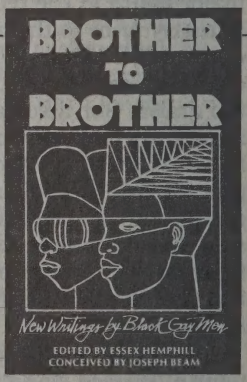
Black gay men are coming home

After the death of *In the Life* editor Joseph Beam, activist and poet Essex Hemphill carried on in his footsteps with this new anthology of fiction, essays, and poetry by black gay men. Contributors include Assoto Saint, Craig G. Harris, Melvin Dixon, Marlon Riggs, and many newer writers.



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MUSIC

BY D. J. MARIUS

ZIGGY MARLEY AND THE MELODY MAKERS
"Jahmekya"
(Virgin)

Confronting any legacy presents a challenge, but when the legacy is that of reggae pioneer and legend Bob Marley, the challenge becomes awesome. Siblings David ("Ziggy"), Stephen, Cedella and Sharon Marley have risen to this challenge, reshaping and redefining the reggae sound with elements of rap, hip-hop, R&B and gospel. As Ziggy Marley and the Melody Makers, they are bringing reggae to an increasing, ever-changing group of listeners. "We're still growing and we still feel like a new group. We don't feel like we've reached as many people as we could," explains Ziggy. "But it does make me feel good that we can reach across to people and make way for other reggae artists to come through."

On their new release *Jahmekya,* the group continues to come of age and mature as musicians. The themes dealt with on the band's breakthrough album, *Conscious Party,* and the subsequent *One Bright Day,* are extended in a new direction. Spirituality, celebration, conscience and reverence permeate the energy of *Jahmekya.*

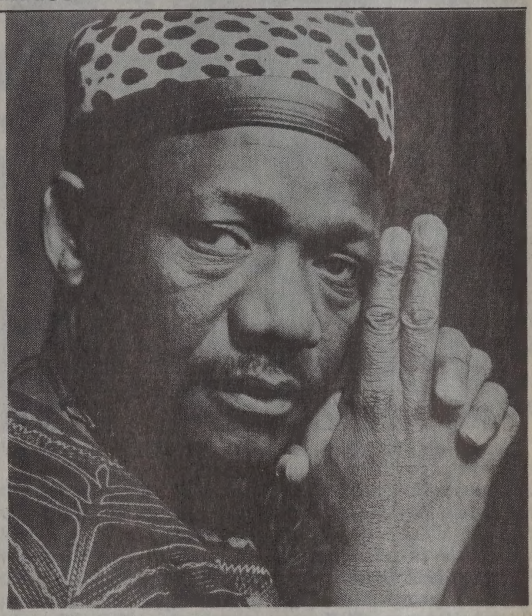
The band self-produced the album, with the help of Glenn Rosenstein, gravitating away from Talking Heads members (and Tom Tom Club founders) Chris Frantz and Tina Weymouth, who produced their two previous releases. The new album also showcases an all-Jamaican backing band. "With the music we're doing, originality is the thing we have to stress," Ziggy continues, "to make sure it's us and not a copy of my father or anybody else."

The album's first single, "Kozmik" (written by Ziggy and Cedella), possesses the pulsating energy the band has become known for. Among many other standout tunes, be sure to check out the hip-hop rhythms of "Good Time," and the introspective tribute, "Namibia."

SONNY OKOSUNS
"African Soldiers"
(Profile)

As the creative arts take on a more Afrocentric view, international music is coming into its own. African musician Sonny Okosuns cuts across cultural boundaries on *African Soldiers,* his first American recording for Profile Records, traditionally a rap label here in the States.

Okosuns grew up in Africa listening to Otis Redding, James Brown and the Beatles, and was influenced to the point of teaching himself to play the guitar, drums and piano. He later performed with reggae stars Peter Tosh and Eddy Grant, helping him to reach worldwide status as a performer. His politics and spirituality come through strong in his lyrics. Although banned in South Africa for his strong anti-apartheid views, he remains most popular in the Motherland, where he has released over 16 albums.



Sonny Okosuns

African Soldiers cultivates several different rhythms, including reggae and American funk, in addition to African beat. The Jamaican-flavored "King of Kings" is a standout, as is the down tempo cry for unity, "Babylon."

KMD
"Mr. Hood"
(Electra)

An imaginative trio from Long Island (dubbed "Strong Island" by the rap community), KMD jumps feet first into the rap scene. Their incredible debut album, *Mr. Hood,* pokes fun at cultural stereotypes and slams hard with Islamic knowledge. Mr. Hood is actually a character—a computer-generated voice sampled from a language record—who turns up in unexpected places throughout the album.

All under the age of twenty, this threesome—Zevlove X, DJ Subroc and Onyx ("the Birthstone Kid")—came up with a different name for their group, filled with meaning. KMD is the moniker for a "Positive Kauz in a Much Damaged Society." "We grew up in an era when negative rap was popular," says Onyx. "The K for cause gives it more kick."

Brothers Zevlove and Subroc hooked up with Onyx in 1987, shortly after all three converted to the Five Pillars of Faith of Islam. Zevlove's nasal voice and distinctive style of rapping defines a surprising voice of wisdom for one so young (check out the serious science dropped on

Damian Dame

"Bananapeel Blues"). "The main message of KMD is to uplift the conscience of the Nubian people," Onyx continues. And not only the Muslim slaves stolen from Africa in the 1600s, but all oppressed people including "Latinos, Japanese, Sicilians, Indians and American blacks."

With musical influences like Gil-Scott Heron, Stetsasonic and Boogie Down Productions ("on the production tip"), KMD is an intelligent continuation of our musical history. Welcome to the 'Hood!

DAMIAN DAME
"Damian Dame"
(LaFace)

A varied musical mix, including funk, hip-hop and a strong dose of pop appeal, defines this debut from duo Damian Dame. It also signals the long-anticipated first release from LaFace Records, the new record label from superstar producers Babyface and L.A. Reid.

Keyboardist and singer Damian taught himself to play piano at an early age. He was playing in clubs as a teenager in his native Michigan, and later moved to Los Angeles to follow his musical dreams. Singer/songwriter Deah, who grew up in San Jose, Calif., cut her teeth on musical influences such as Chaka Khan and Deniece Williams.

Many of the performers that L.A. and Babyface have produced have a sound quite easy to recognize, and Damian Dame is no exception. This album, however, does a great job at highlighting Damian Dame's talent. Two outstanding ballads, "Right Down To It" and "Virgin Island," show Damian and Deah's strength as singers, respectively. The duo stays with the program on the up-tempo side as well, with the standout dance tracks "Gotta Learn My Rhythm," "Whack It On Me" and the jammin' "Believer."

Overall, this is a solid debut project, if you can get past the predictable, synthesizer-laden formula on some cuts. Damian Dame's wide appeal and eminent talent will certainly work to their advantage. And a push from LaFace certainly won't hurt!

JODECI
"Forever My Lady"
(MCA)

The world of hip-hop is changing faster than albums can be released. The debut album from Jodeci comes at you with a different approach. The foursome is made up of two sets of brothers—JoJo and K-Ci from North Carolina, and Virginia-born Dalvin and DeVante Swing—all under the age of 22.

The musical approach is what grabs you. Essentially a dance-oriented R&B set, the first half of *Forever My Lady* is devoted to an excellent group of ballads. Albums of this nature usually try to slam hard on the hip-hop tip, throwing in a few ballads for good measure. Concentrating on the slow jams up front gives the band instant credibility as singers, which they deserve.

Although a young group, the fellas have already worked with Al B. Sure! (who co-produced five of the album's tunes), Father MC and Tevin Campbell. A background as gospel vocalists adds to the emotional feeling the ballads possess. The album's best slow cut, "U&I," and the fantastic minute-and-a-half "Interlude" showcases the band's harmonizing at its best.

Unfortunately, the album's second half is all about formula-driven hip-hop. Programmed drum machines are in large scale effect, and these guys end up sounding a lot like Guy (I don't know if this is intentional or not.) Stick to the ballads on this one, and *Forever My Lady* is definitely worth a listen.

CANDY DULFER
"Saxuality"
(Arista)

If you like jazz with a decidedly funky feel, this may be the CD for you. I haven't seen many female saxophonists; this release makes me want to seek more of them out. Dulfer is an excellent musician who plays with confidence and flair on her American debut.

The daughter of a jazz musician, Dulfer began playing at the age of 12 in her native Amsterdam. "I started out listening to jazz," she says. "Charlie Parker, Ben Webster... Sonny Rollins is one of my favorites." She was later turned on to Chic, Maceo Parker and Sly Stone, which influenced her funkier side. On *Saxuality,* Dulfer offers up a diverse selection of tracks that are impressive.

You probably have heard the cut "Lily Was Here," From the soundtrack of the Dutch film of the same name, which pairs Dulfer with Dave Stewart of Eurythmics. The passion and sensuality of "Donja" and "House Is Not A Home" shouldn't be missed. Nor should sophisticated jazz gems "Mr. Lee" and "Pee Wee."

Candy Dulfer is a name you'll want to remember. After playing with such eclectic musicians as Prince and Pink Floyd (among others), this debut album should garner a strong base of stateside fans. Take a listen; it will be easy to agree.

Although banned in South Africa for his strong anti-apartheid views, Sonny Okosuns remains most popular in the Motherland, where he has released over 16 albums.

MOVIES

BY ALAN BELL

HANGIN' WITH THE HOMEBOYS
(New Line)

A comedy about four friends who team up for a Friday night on the town, *Hangin' with the Homeboys* is alternately funny, poignant and profound. Noteably, a gay-focused scene that could have made gay men the butt of a joke—or the object of violence—is passed over with a few curious (but not at all derogatory) glances.

Homeboys was directed by Joseph B. Vasquez, a 29-year-old of black and Puerto Rican descent. He knows dramatic structure, how to move the camera and how to squeeze truths in the cracks between jokes.

Doug E. Doug, Mario Joyner, John Leguizamo and Nestor Serrano create four very real, very memorable characters in one of the best of the current crop of black-themed movies.

YOUNG SOUL REBELS
(Prestige)

When a young black gay man is killed in a park well-known in London for cruising, forces are set in motion that drive a wedge between two good friends and galvanize the community at large. Along the way, director and co-writer Isaac Julien drops a few insights on relations between black and white, police misbehavior and the social construction of masculinity.

Young Soul Rebels is easy, sentimental and has its share of ho hum acting. But it's exciting to watch because it tackles our themes and our situations —themes and situations that rarely make it to the big screen. The story, which is set in 1977 at the height of disco, features music by War, Funkadelics, Parliament, the O'Jays and the Players Association. Isaac Julien directed *Looking for Langston* in 1989.

LIVIN' LARGE
(Samuel Goldwyn)

Livin' Large! is the larger than broad comedy about a young black broadcasting student who gets a chance at big time and sells his soul to the man in exchange for material success.

Though unintended, the movie justifies poor performance by African-Americans and equates professionalism with whiteness. Still T. C. Carson gives lots of energy to his starring role and the music by the Jungle Brothers jams.

Livin' Large! was directed by Michael Schultz, the brother who helmed the seminal *Car Wash*, then ran out of gas.

RICOCHET
(Warner Bros.)

In most instances I prefer the experience of viewing a film in a theater rather than in my living room. But *Ricochet* is one movie I can't wait to be released to home video so that I can slo-mo the locker room scene when a nude Denzel Washington momentarily exposes his goodies to view.

But even without that as a draw, *Ricochet*—about a convict who tries to destroy the career of the person who put him behind bars—is an fun way to spend an evening. Washington eases through *Ricochet* in a tailor-made role, Ice T is good (though I'd like to see him cast against type sometime), and John Lithgow is the perfect villain.

Only at the end, does the film fall apart with too many implausabilites and and an overabundance of expensive cheap thrills. But cheap thrills—expensive or otherwise—is what pleases audiences these days. Expect a *Ricochet II.*

Valentine Nonyela and Mo Sesay in *Young Soul Rebels.*

PARIS IS BURNING
(Prestige)

The good news is that someone has made a film about a subgroup of a subgroup of a subgroup. The bad news is that it wasn't placed in a clear enough context.

Paris is Burning tells the story of today's black gay drag balls, a venerable institution first popular in Harlem decades ago. It's about the resilence of a people, who fashion a culture on the leftovers of the straight white society that dismisses them. We see the joy and directedness of people who have created a reason to be, a vehicle for self-esteem.

But we also watch our lesbian and gay black brothers and sisters, both in word and deed, ape the look and mannerisms of straight white people. One character says he wants to "look like a real man—a straight man." Another says, "I'd like to be a spoiled rich white girl."

Paris tells a black gay story (good), and—in short clips—a white straight story (bad). But the audience gets no notion of the straight black story, the larger gay black story or the larger gay black *drag* story. *Paris* ends with a 15-year-old saying, "So this is New York City and this is what the gay life is about." Nope. This is *part* of what gay life is about, a point not made clearly enough.

Directed by Jennie Livingston.

JEWEL'S Catch-One

Jewel's
Catch-One
Xmas Party
Sat., Dec. 21st
9 pm - 4 am

Come
Party with us
Christmas
Eve & Day
9 pm - 4 am

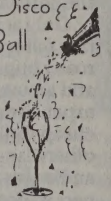
At the Holiday Season, our thoughts
turn gratefully to those who have made our progress possible
It is in this spirit we say . . .

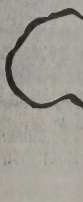
Thank You and Best Wishes for the Holidays
and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely Yours,
Jewel Thais-Williams

Jewel & Rue's
Children's Party
(12 & Under)
Sat., Dec. 21st
3 pm - 5 pm

Plan to Attend
Jewel's Catch-One Disco
New Year's Eve Ball
Tuesday,
December 31, 1991
9 pm - 4 am
Dancing Show 7
Complimentary Buffet
$20 Advance $25 Door





HAPPY KWANZAA!
"The First Fruit Of The Harvest"
Dec. 26th thru Dec. 31st
Roots Room
Nightly Observance
7:00 P.M.
No Cover

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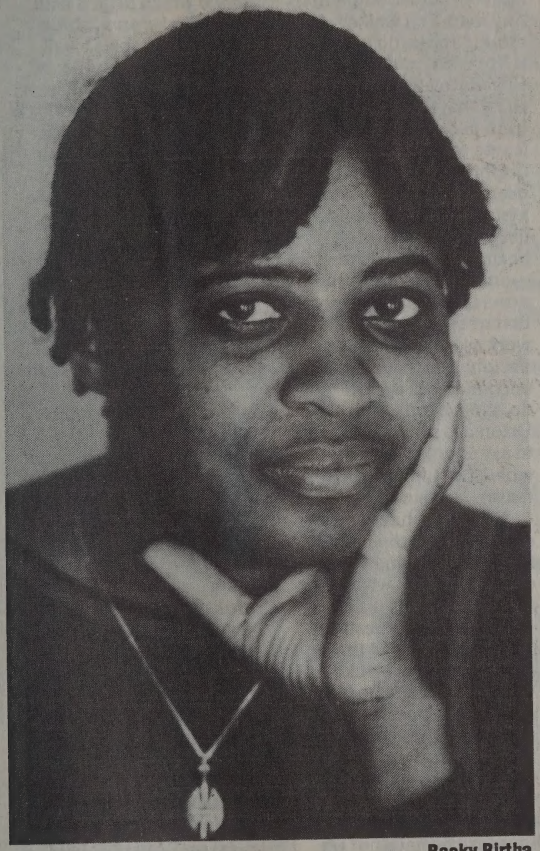
BOOKS

BY ALAN E. MILLER



Becky Birtha

This is a good time to be a writer and a reader, especially if you are looking for mature and varied images of African-American lesbians and gay men. That's not the only reason I review the books that pass through my hands, but it is a significant and often limiting factor. Those other books—books that marginalize our experiences in the black or gay communities—will be reviewed other places. How many spaces exist to specifically evaluate our words, our images, our attempts to describe and shape our many communities? And yet... And yet if I have learned anything at all over these last few years of conferences and readings, it is that coast to coast, we, black lesbians and gays, are more similar than different.

Becky Birtha's new collection of stories, *Lover's Choice*, (Seal Press, paper, $8.95) makes this clear. These stories are primarily set on the two coasts, but are reflective of the experience in the heartland, too. Her main characters, all women, are familiar. The bus driver with children at home, the teen riding and playing with boys who surreptitiously spies two women publicly embracing. Not to mention characters we know yet find difficult to see, like the lesbian who still mourns her lifetime companion 13 years deceased. After reading "In the Life," this final story of the book readers will feel that Pearl, or Jinx, as her friends call her, seems to celebrate and cherish more than mourn her saving "Grace," the woman with whom she shared much of her life. Thirteen years after her death, Grace haunts her.

What is remarkable about this book of stories is how it acknowledges important elements of our culture (like the church) and reveals our sometimes tortured experience within them. This it does without a great deal of condemnation while acknowledging that her characters nonetheless are largely not at home there. Birtha strikes a remarkable balance in dealing with religion, which surfaces again in "The Saints and Sinners Run," a tale about a bus driver whose Sunday route takes her past many of the churches in her town. Like Jinx, who hasn't stepped inside a church in 35 years, Cecily has a story like this to recount because it occurs so often that it has become a ritual.

"Once in a while," Cecily says, "an old lady will ask me 'Don't you go to church?' She'll be looking up and down my slacks and my man-tailored blue shirt. But that's my uniform. She can see it's pressed and fresh on Sunday, just like every other day, and may have a no-nonsense hairdo, but it's neat and trim. 'Yes ma'am,' I'd say, 'when I don't have to work.' It's not exactly a lie. The times I go to church do be times when I don't have to work. Maybe not *every* time I don't have to work, but she didn't ask that." This story and the other stories which are written in the first person are my favorites because they seem to speak directly to me, Nonetheless, I know that they surely speak in a deeper way to women than they probably do to me. Even for me, however, these stories are a way of "trying on" on a voice that is not altogether unfamiliar. But we black gays and lesbians have never enjoyed the luxury of being separate. Even our separateness, these stories seem to say, is illusory. Men are largely absent here, but there is no hostility. Johnnieruth, the young protagonist of the opening story in the book is more perplexed and amused by the boys she goes biking with than anything else. And when one offers to be her special companion, she thinks, and one can almost see her snorting, "I ain't met nobody yet that I'd really rather be with than be by myself. But I will someday. When I find that special place where everybody different, I'm gonna find somebody there I can

be friends with. And it ain't gonna be no dumb boy."

Melvin Dixon's *Vanishing Rooms* (Dutton, hardcover, $18.95) has received a good deal of attention in the mainstream press, mostly favorable. This is a good sign, and somewhat surprising. But that kind of attention always makes me suspicious; it makes me consider for whom the book is intended. This one is about a mixed-race couple—Jesse, a black dancer, and his white lover, Metro, both recent college graduates. It is also about Lonny, the repressed white homosexual who kills Metro in Manhattan's West Village and about the friendship that blooms between Jesse and Ruella, a black dancer he had met just before Metro's brutal murder. In some ways, this is a novel about the ways and reasons that we face others not as people but as objects. It suggests that we are not always people meeting people, but one set of needs meeting another. Race, gender and history complicate this even further. The novel's structure and themes are Faulknerian; the series of alternating monologues provide a counterpoint on the novel's primary events—Metro's murder, Jesse and Ruella's blossoming friendship, and Lonny's struggle to come to terms with himself.

Dixon writes with passion and a great deal of craft. *Rooms* is a challenging read, dense with imagery, often abrupt and alternately dazzling and puzzling. That's not surprising since Dixon is also a poet. The novel focuses more on interiors than exteriors, more on essences than facts. Take the monologue in which Lonny returns to the scene of the crime before admitting his guilt to the police:

"They had the body marked out in chalk on the ground behind some blue sawhorses that said 'Police Line—Do Not Cross.' It was right where we left him. I saw it glowing. 'Here's Metro,' I told myself. Here's anybody, even me. A chalk line and nothing inside. A fat while line of head, arms body and legs. A body curled into a heap to hold itself. Like a leaf or a dead bird, something dropped out of the sky from a guy's stretched out hand. It was amazing. But it was also the figure of somebody. A man. Any man. So I walked around the outline, seeing it from different angles. How funny to see something that fixed, protected from people or from falling leaves or from the shimy drippings from sides of beef. The outline wasn't Metro. It was somebody like me." This passage is beautiful, lyrical, revealing—one of many gems the novel offers. But I suspect that not all readers will work as hard as I did to decipher the novel's many encoded messages. If they do, they will discover that Dixon has much of interest to say about the spaces where homophobia and racism intersect.

Now that I have some distance from the novel, I find myself asking some questions that I would normally think of as unfair, some "what if" questions. Such as. What if all the characters were black? Would the media be interested in the book as much then? I ask these questions not because the novel is undeserving of the attention it has received, but because I am certain that some critics have not understood all that it is saying about interracial relationships or about this one in particular. Dixon has very good reasons for his choices. Let's just say that I think it's very hard on blacks and whites, gays and straights, women and men. I believe it is challenging us to examine those liberated zones that we have heretofore considered simultaneously safe and dangerous—not only public sex playgrounds, but also interracial relationships. Read this novel for yourself, and be ready to work hard.

Finally, I would like to recommend *High Risk*, an anthology by Amy Scholder and Ira Silverberg (Plume, paper, $8.95) which begins with this premise and this definition: "HIGH RISK—all those activities, subjects, imaginings that challenge the limits imposed not only by society but oneself. If sadomasochism is about anything, it's about transgression—of the limits we thought we had. If we've taken drugs for a reason, it's to go beyond consciousness—one we thought was fixed. If asserting an ethnic identity is an essential means of survival, it's because culture in American society is based on the fallacy of white supremacy."

Wow! It's here, all those things you sneak a peek at in the bookstores when you think no one's looking. I, for one, am a closet Pat Califia reader. What's she doing among the piss drinkers, the brazen hussies, the role-players, the risk-takers, the chosen ones, the self-endangered? John Preston's aptly chosen introductory essay starts this party. Naturally, it's called "How Dare You Even Think These Things!" *Risk* also includes poems by Wanda Coleman, the L.A.-based performance poet, and a long hot poem by Essex Hemphill called "Heavy Breathing." What surprised me about this anthology was that I felt really connected to pieces which are far from my own experience, i.e., Mary Gaitskill's tale of self-styled "bad girls" "Action, Illinois," Jane Delynn's "Butch," and Lynne Tillman's "Diary of a Masochist."

Yes, it's high risk. But is it (in this era of AIDS) necessarily irresponsible? Immature? Dangerous? You decide for yourself.

Curtis hopes to God he's misinterpreted.

R.E.M.–Out Of Time. *Losing My Religion; Shiny Happy People;* more. (Warner Bros.) **417•923**

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Heart—Brigade (Capitol) 405·555

Raspberries—Capitol Collectors Series (Capitol) 416·834

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Blind Faith (Polydor) 423·673

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Ozzy Osbourne—No More Tears (Epic/Associated) 428·128

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The Best of Frankie Lymon & The Teenagers(Rhino) 410·019

Led Zeppelin—In Through The Out Door (Swan Song) 409·144

The Monkees—Greatest Hits (Arista) 408·203

Paul Anka—30th Anniversary Collection (Rhino) 405·761

The Band—To Kingdom Come...The Definitive Collection (Capitol) 388·181/398·180

Peter, Paul And Mary—In Concert (Warner Bros.) 381·640/391·649

John Lennon/Yoko Ono—Double Fantasy (Capitol) 380·774

Harry Chapin—The Gold Medal Collection (Elektra) 375·824/395·822

The Very Best Of The Everly Brothers (Warner Bros.) 372·912

Jerry Lee Lewis—18 Original Sun Greatest Hits (Rhino) 369·108

Marvin Gaye—Greatest Hits (Motown) 367·565

The Beach Boys—Pet Sounds (Capitol) 367·193

Traffic—John Barleycorn Must Die (Island)364·935

Grateful Dead—American Beauty (Warner Bros.) 358·895

Yes—Fragile (Atlantic) 351·957

Aretha Franklin—30 Greatest Hits (Atlantic) 350·793/390·799

Rolling Stones—Sticky Fingers (Rolling Stones Rec.) 350·645

Van Morrison—Moondance (Warner Bros.) 349·803

Richie Sambora—Stranger In This Town (Mercury) 427·831

Bill Haley—Orig. Master Tapes (MCA) 345·215

Jethro Tull—Aqualung (Chrysalis) 345·157

The Doors—L.A. Woman (Elektra) 340·810

Bread—Anthology Of Bread (Elektra) 337·972

Smokey Robinson & The Miracles—Anthology (Motown) 336·057/396·051

The Who—Quadrophenia (MCA) 324·350/394·353

Motown's 25 #1 Hits (Motown) 319·996/399·998

Led Zeppelin—Houses Of The Holy (Atlantic) 293·597

Jackson Browne—The Pretender (Asylum) 292·243

Best Of Carly Simon (Elektra) 291·856

Led Zeppelin IV (Atlantic) 291·435

Eagles—Hotel California (Asylum) 286·948

Fleetwood Mac—Rumours (Warner Bros.) 286·914

Linda Ronstadt—Greatest Hits (Asylum) 286·740

Meat Loaf—Bat Out Of Hell (Epic) 279·133

Dire Straits—On Every Street (Warners Bros.) 428·359

Spyro Gyra—Collection (GRP) 420·950

Billy Joel—The Stranger (Columbia) 277·491

Boyz N The Hood—Music From The Motion Picture (Qwest/Warner Bros.) 426·908

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Boston (Epic) 269·209

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Bruce Springsteen—Born To Run (Columbia) 257·279

Aerosmith—Toys In The Attic (Columbia) 254·912

Jim Croce—Photographs & Memories: His Greatest Hits (Saja) 246·868

James Taylor—New Moon Shine (Columbia) 429·209

Marilyn McCoo—The Me Nobody Knows (Warner Bros.) 428·680

Cheap Trick—The Greatest Hits (Epic) 428·656

Jerry Garcia Band (Arista) 428·425/398·420

Mantovani's Grestest Hits (Polydor) 427·534

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Young MC—Brainstorm (Capitol) 427·062

The Rippingtons—Curves Ahead (GRP) 426·874

Chick Corea Elektric Band—Beneath The Mask (GRP) 426·866

The Robert Cray Band—Midnight Stroll Featuring The Memphis Horns (Mercury) 426·197

Eric Clapton—461 Ocean Boulevard (Polydor) 423·442

The KLF—The White Room (Arista) 426·304

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Carreras/Domingo/Pavarotti—Encore! (Sony Masterworks) 425·470

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Gladys Knight—Good Woman (MCA) 424·382

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Eric Clapton—Slowhand (Polydor) 423·459

Jimi Hendrix—Radio One (Rykodisc) 412·379

The Best Of Little Anthony & The Imperials (Rhino) 410·001

Heart—Dreamboat Annie (Capitol) 405·936

The Best Of Mitch Ryder & The Detroit Wheels—Rev Up (Rhino) 405·753

Black Sabbath—We Sold Our Soul For Rock 'N' Roll (Warner Bros.) 404·632

Carl Perkins—Original Sun Greatest Hits (Rhino) 374·199

The Doors (Elektra) 369·991

Joni Mitchell—Court and Spark (Asylum) 367·102

Elvis Costello—Armed Forces (Columbia) 363·622

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Anthrax—Attack Of The Killer B's (Island) 424·119

Roger Waters—The Wall-Berlin 1990 (Mercury) 423·855/393·850

Tears For Fears—Songs From The Big Chair (Mercury) 423·848

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Rush—Chronicles (Greatest Hits) (Mercury) 423·780/393·785

John Cougar Mellencamp—Uh-Huh (Riva) 423·574

Bon Jovi—Slippery When Wet (Mercury) 423·392

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Van Halen (Warner Bros.) 286·807

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Simply Red—Stars (East-West) 429·522

Dan Fogelberg—Greetings From The West (Epic) 429·241

Heart—Rock The House Live! (Capitol) 428·961

Vanessa Williams—The Comfort Zone (Wing) 426·510

Johnny Mathis—Better Together - The Duet (Columbia) 424·408

David Sanborn—Another Hand (Elektra/Musician) 423·103

Nigel Kennedy—Brahms: Concerto In D Major Klaus Tennstadt/London Phil. (Angel) 423·004

Lisa Fischer—So Intense (Elektra) 422·824

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Neil Diamond—Lovescape (Columbia) 428·318

Ratt—Ratt & Roll (Atlantic) 427·799

Daniel Barenboim—Corigliano Symphony No. 1 (Erato) 426·262

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Squeeze—Play (Reprise) 425·777

Doug Stone—I Thought It Was You (Epic)425·637

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Donna Summer—On The Radio (Casablanca) 423·830

Tony! Toni! Tone!—The Revival (Wing) 423·616

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Skid Row—Slave To The Grind (Atlantic) 422·220

The Allman Brothers Band—Shades Of Two Worlds (Epic) 422·212

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Def Leppard—Pyromania (Mercury) 423·517

Vanilla Ice—Extremely Live (SBK) 422·899

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The Manhattan Transfer—The Offbeat Of Avenues (Columbia) 420·208

Original Soundtrack—Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles II: The Secret Of The Ooze (SBK) 419·572

Rolling Stones—Flashpoint (Rolling Stones Rec.) 418·715

George Thorogood And The Destroyers—Boogie People (EMI) 418·061

Steve Morse—Southern Steel (MCA) 416·636

Eddie Money—Right Here (Columbia) 428·037

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MORE SELECTIONS ON OTHER SIDE . . .

Jethro Tull—Catfish Rising (Chrysalis) 428·870

Heart—Brigade (Capitol) 405·555

Raspberries—Capitol Collectors Series (Capitol) 416·834

The Best Of Ricky Nelson (1964-1975) (MCA) 414·011

The Best Atlanta Rhythm Section (Polydor) 427·500

Rod Stewart—Downtown Train/Greatest Hits—Selections From The Storyteller Anthology (Warner Bros.) 425·322

James Brown—The CD Of JB: (Sex Machine And Other Soul Classics) (Polydor) 425·025

Color Me Badd—C.M.B. (Giant) 426·916

The Best Of Jay And The Americans—Come A Little Bit Closer (EMI) 413·468

Bee Gees—Best Of, Volume 1 (Polydor) 424·358

Rod Stewart—Every Picture Tells A Story (Mercury) 423·814

Rush—Moving Pictures (Mercury) 423·798

Righteous Brothers—The Very Best Of—Unchained Melody (Verve) 423·772

The Moody Blues—Days Of Future Passed (Deram) 423·749

Blind Faith (Polydor) 423·673

The Allman Brothers Band—Brothers & Sisters (Polydor) 423·624

Ozzy Osbourne—No More Tears (Epic/Associated) 428·128

Best Of Fats Domino Volume One—My Blue Heaven (EMI) 411·579

The Best of Frankie Lymon & The Teenagers(Rhino) 410·019

Led Zeppelin—In Through The Out Door (Swan Song) 409·144

The Monkees—Greatest Hits (Arista) 408·203

Paul Anka—30th Anniversary Collection (Rhino) 405·761

The Band—To Kingdom Come…The Definitive Collection (Capitol) 388·181/398·180

Peter, Paul And Mary—In Concert (Warner Bros.) 381·640/391·649

John Lennon/Yoko Ono—Double Fantasy (Capitol) 380·774

Harry Chapin—The Gold Medal Collection (Elektra) 375·824/395·822

The Very Best Of The Everly Brothers (Warner Bros.) 372·912

Jerry Lee Lewis—18 Original Sun Greatest Hits (Rhino) 369·108

Marvin Gaye—Greatest Hits (Motown) 367·565

The Beach Boys—Pet Sounds (Capitol) 367·193

Traffic—John Barleycorn Must Die (Island)364·935

Grateful Dead—American Beauty (Warner Bros.) 358·895

Yes—Fragile (Atlantic) 351·957

Aretha Franklin—30 Greatest Hits (Atlantic) 350·793/390·799

Rolling Stones—Sticky Fingers (Rolling Stones Rec.) 350·645

Van Morrison—Moondance (Warner Bros.) 349·803

Richie Sambora—Stranger In This Town (Mercury) 427·831

Bill Haley—Orig. Master Tapes (MCA) 345·215

Jethro Tull—Aqualung (Chrysalis) 345·157

The Doors—L.A. Woman (Elektra) 340·810

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Smokey Robinson & The Miracles—Anthology (Motown) 336·057/396·051

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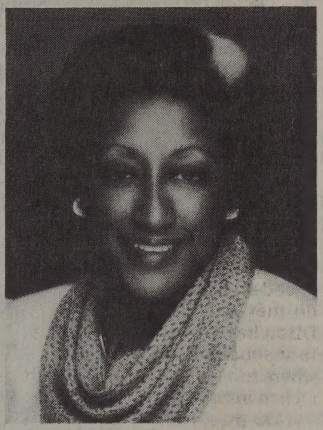
COLUMBIA HOUSE: We Entertain America...One Person At A Time.

MORE SELECTIONS ON OTHER SIDE . . .

BLK NEWS

Lesbian Wins Seattle Seat

SEATTLE—Sherry Harris overwhelming defeated 24-year incumbent Sam Smith to become the nation's first openly lesbian African-American woman elected to public office. After a fierce runoff battle, Harris outpolled Smith 96,055 to 48,697.



Sherry Harris

Smith is openly anti-gay, fought Seattle's domestic-partnership ordinance, and has described himself as a "moral conservative."

The large win startled even Harris, who previously had beaten Smith in a primary vote in Sept. 17, 45 percent to 38 percent. Harris, who is an engineer, attributed her victory to the high turnout of voters from Seattle's gay and lesbian precincts, plus the financial support from the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund (GLVF), a new Washington, D.C. group that funds lesbian and gay condidates.

"Seattle has made a very strong statement about how we live our lives," Haris said amid hundred of volunteers who worked in her campaigns. "They wanted a new direction, and our victory illuminates a vision that includes everyone, gays and lesbians, the elderly, people of color, the homeless, people concerned about our environment and land use. This is a win for Seattle future," she said.

At present, there is apparently only one openly gay, black elected official in the U.S.—Albany, N.Y., City Councilor Keith St. John.

David Mixner, GLVF board chairman said, "Sherry Harris exposed Seattle to a side of our community that is rarely addressed. Obviously [Seattle] responded very favorably to her message. We have always promoted the fact that gay men and women make excellent candidates on a wide range of issues."

BWMT/LA Gets Aid for AIDS $

LOS ANGELES—An agreement has been reached between Aid for AIDS and BWMT/LA to provide past and present members of BWMT/LA up to an additional $400 in funding above the agency's maximum of $2000.

Aid for AIDS provides confidential financial assistance to people with AIDS or ARC who are awaiting their government or insurance benefits and thus are in need of immediate emergency funds.

'Ball' Win Spawns 1992 Redux

LOS ANGELES—The first Catch One ball, "Catch One is Buring, is guaranteed not to be the last. The Oct. 2 fête was the area's social event of the year in addition ot benefitting Rue's House, a residential facility for women and children with HIV.

Voguers, poseurs and glamour queens came out of hiding from all over Southern California for the chance to compete in a variety of categories. Drag included "office drag," the competition for corporate executive realness. Voguers also competed for bangee boy and bangee girl realness, in costumes and attitude authentic down to "tagging" the runway.

From the butch queen contestants to the master of ceremonies, to the packed audience, attitude was the most prized possession, and those who had the most of it won the larger than life trophies to show for it.

Catch One's Winter Ball is scheduled for Feb. 5.

Man Sentenced in Gay Murder

NEW YORK—A man convicted in the murder and robbery of a New York gay community activist who had befriended and tried to help him was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison.

Steven Zabel, 39, was found dead March 4, 1989 with his head nearly severed from his body. Andrew McMillan, 21, of Elizabeth, N.J., was convicted of the murder.

McMillan, along with Jose "Eddie" Laureano, 21, a homeless crack addict, killed Zabel, then robbed his apartment of electronic equipment to sell for cash to buy drugs. McMillan, who resided with Zabel sporadically for almost seven years, conceded to State Supreme Court Justice Richard Lowe that he was at the murder scene, although he claimed he was innocent of the charges.

Zabel's body was found after coworkers at ACT-UP told authorities they had been unable to reach him.

Activists Fête Afro Day

NEW YORK—Strutting to the gospel beat of "Nothing's Gonna Turn Me 'Round," about two dozen lesbian and gay activists took their place among thousands of other marchers, including this year's Grand Marshals, Mayor Dinkins, Spike Lee and actor Denzel Washington, in the 23rd Annual Afro-American Day Parade. The parade wound its way through the streets of Harlem despite cloudy skies Sept. 15.

Braving taunts, but also basking in not a few finger snapping cheers, the groups carried banners from Gay Men of African Descent, Black Men Loving Black Men and African Ancestral Wimmin United for Social Change (formerly Salsa Soul Sisters). *—Ra'an Medley*

Paula Abdul–Spellbound. Title cut plus *Vibeology; Rush, Rush; Promise Of A New Day;* more (Virgin) **420•257**

C&C Music Factory–Gonna Make You Sweat. Title cut plus *Here We Go;* more. (Columbia) **416•933**

Bonnie Raitt–Luck Of The Draw. *Something To Talk About;* many more. (Capitol) **423•186**

Van Halen–For Unlawfull Carnal Knowledge. *Poundcake;* plus many more. (Warner Bros) **420•273**

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See details below.

Lisa Lisa And Cult Jam—Straight Outta Hell's Kitchen (Columbia) 422•410

Marc Cohn (Atlantic) 421•552

DJ Jazzy Jeff & Fresh Prince—Homebase (Jive/RCA) 421•024

Yanni—Reflections Of Passion (Private Music) 421•685

World Party—Thank You World (Chrysalis) 421•057

The Best Of The Waterboys '81-'90 (Chrysalis) 421•040

3rd Bass—Derelicts Of Dialect (Def Jam/Columbia) 420•992

Alan Jackson—Don't Rock The Jukebox (Arista) 420•935

Keith Washington—Make Time For Love (Qwest/Warner Bros.) 420•679

Midori—Live At Carnegie Hall (Sony Classical) 420•570

New Jack City—Various Artists (Giants) 426•825

Tanya Tucker—What Do I Do With Me? (Capitol) 420•372

Bela Fleck & The Flecktones—Flight Of The Cosmic Hippo (Warner Bros.) 420•315

Joe Jackson—Laughter And Lust (Virgin) 420•240

Elvis Costello—Mighty Like A Rose (Warner Bros.) 420•182

The Crusaders—Healing The Wounds (GRP) 419•952

Another Bad Creation—Coolin' At The Playground Ya' Know! (Motown) 419•903

Bad English—Backlash (Epic) 422•170

Travis Tritt—It's All About To Change (Warner Bros.) 422•113

Pat Benatar—True Love (Chrysalis) 418•624

Hi-Five (Jive/RCA) 418•616

ZZ Top—Recycler (Warner Bros.) 418•491

Drivin' N' Cryin'—Fly Me Courageous (Island) 418•160

Joe Walsh—Ordinary Average Guy (Epic/Associated) 418•012

Escape Club—Dollars And Sex (Atlantic) 417•964

Divinyls (Virgin) 417•519

Paul McCartney—Tripping The Live Fantastic-Highlights (Capitol) 417•477

M.C. Hammer—Please Hammer, Don't Hurt 'Em (Capitol) 403•477

Scorpions—Crazy World (Mercury) 423•608

Ray Conniff Plays Broadway (CBS Discos) 416•941

The Rembrandts (Atco) 417•378

Ricky Van Shelton—Backroads (Columbia) 416•909

Morrissey—Kill Uncle (Sire/Reprise) 416•750

David Lee Roth—A Little Ain't Enough (Warner Bros.) 416•610

Air Supply—The Earth Is ... (Giant) 426•858

Gloria Estefan—Into The Light (Epic) 415•943

Original Soundtrack—The Civil War From The PBS TV Series (Elektra/Nonesuch) 415•828

Engelbert Humperdinck—Love Is The Reason (Critique) 415•141

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BLK NEWS

Lesbian Wins Seattle Seat

SEATTLE—Sherry Harris overwhelming defeated 24-year incumbent Sam Smith to become the nation's first openly lesbian African-American woman elected to public office. After a fierce runoff battle, Harris outpolled Smith 96,055 to 48,697.

Smith is openly anti-gay, fought Seattle's domestic-partnership ordinance, and has described himself as a "moral conservative."

The large win startled even Harris, who previously had beaten Smith in a primary vote in Sept. 17, 45 percent to 38 percent. Harris, who is an engineer, attributed her victory to the high turnout of voters from Seattle's gay and lesbian precincts, plus the financial support from the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund (GLVF), a new Washington, D.C. group that funds lesbian and gay candidates.

"Seattle has made a very strong statement about how we live our lives," Harris said amid hundred of volunteers who worked in her campaigns. "They wanted a new direction, and our victory illuminates a vision that includes everyone, gays and lesbians, the elderly, people of color, the homeless, people concerned about our environment and land use. This is a win for Seattle future," she said.

At present, there is apparently only one openly gay, black elected official in the U.S.—Albany, N.Y., City Councilor Keith St. John.

David Mixner, GLVF board chairman said, "Sherry Harris exposed Seattle to a side of our community that is rarely addressed. Obviously [Seattle] responded very favorably to her message. We have always promoted the fact that gay men and women make excellent candidates on a wide range of issues."

Sherry Harris

BWMT/LA Gets Aid for AIDS $

LOS ANGELES—An agreement has been reached between Aid for AIDS and BWMT/LA to provide past and present members of BWMT/LA up to an additional $400 in funding above the agency's maximum of $2000.

Aid for AIDS provides confidential financial assistance to people with AIDS or ARC who are awaiting their government or insurance benefits and thus are in need of immediate emergency funds.

'Ball' Win Spawns 1992 Redux

LOS ANGELES—The first Catch One ball, "Catch One is Buring, is guaranteed not to be the last. The Oct. 2 fête was the area's social event of the year in addition of benefitting Rue's House, a residential facility for women and children with HIV.

Voguers, poseurs and glamour queens came out of hiding from all over Southern California for the chance to compete in a variety of categories. Drag included "office drag," the competition for corporate executive realness. Voguers also competed for bangee boy and bangee girl realness, in costumes and attitude authentic down to "tagging" the runway.

From the butch queen contestants to the master of ceremonies, to the packed audience, attitude was the most prized possession, and those who had the most of it won the larger than life trophies to show for it.

Catch One's Winter Ball is scheduled for Feb. 5.

Man Sentenced in Gay Murder

NEW YORK—A man convicted in the murder and robbery of a New York gay community activist who had befriended and tried to help him was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison.

Steven Zabel, 39, was found dead March 4, 1989 with his head nearly severed from his body. Andrew McMillan, 21, of Elizabeth, N.J., was convicted of the murder.

McMillan, along with Jose "Eddie" Laureano, 21, a homeless crack addict, killed Zabel, then robbed his apartment of electronic equipment to sell for cash to buy drugs. McMillan, who resided with Zabel sporadically for almost seven years, conceded to State Supreme Court Justice Richard Lowe that he was at the murder scene, although he claimed he was innocent of the charges.

Zabel's body was found after coworkers at ACT-UP told authorities they had been unable to reach him.

Activists Fête Afro Day

NEW YORK—Strutting to the gospel beat of "Nothing's Gonna Turn Me 'Round," about two dozen lesbian and gay activists took their place among thousands of other marchers, including this year's Grand Marshals, Mayor Dinkins, Spike Lee and actor Denzel Washington, in the 23rd Annual Afro-American Day Parade. The parade wound its way through the streets of Harlem despite cloudy skies Sept. 15.

Braving taunts, but also basking in not a few finger snapping cheers, the groups carried banners from Gay Men of African Descent, Black Men Loving Black Men and African Ancestral Wimmin United for Social Change (formerly Salsa Soul Sisters).

—*Ra'an Medley*

Black Lesbian: Cop Must Go!

SAN FRANCISCO—Police Commission vice-president Gwen Craig, a member of the Black Caucus of the Harvey Milk Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club and a former deputy sheriff, spoke out against the leniency of a sentence handed down in a widely publicized anti-gay police brutality case.

Capt. Richard Cairns, a 22-year veteran of the San Francisco Police Department, had been suspended for 45 days without pay for hitting two people with his baton during the Oct. 6, 1989 Castro Street ACT-UP demonstration. Charges regarding excessive force against a third person were dropped, despite graphic photographs and eyewitness accounts. Cairns had admitted striking the protestors but had claimed that he acted within police guidelines on use of force.

Craig said that Capt. Cairns should have been fired for the misconduct, and that Cairns had "shown himself unfit for command...unfit to wear the uniform of this city." Her extensive prepared statement concluded that the police deliberately provoked the Oct. 6 demonstrators into actions for which they could be arrested, and infringed on protesters' rights to peaceably assemble. Craig defended herself from critics among various factions in the case who said she acted either too severely or not severely enough.

Craig, one of the most visible black lesbians in San Francisco politics, has largely been left to fend for herself on the Police Commission without the backing of the community.

Man Convicted in Gay Murder

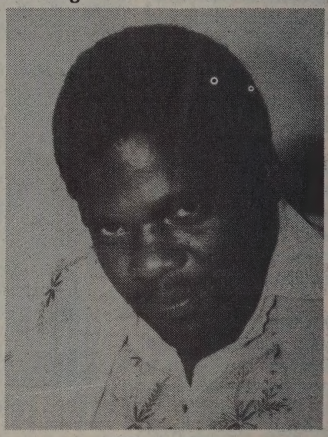
MILWAUKEE—Charles E. Jackson was found guilty of first degree homicide for last October's murder of Cleveland Roundtree. His alleged accomplice, Patrick Harden, is being tried separately.

Roundtree was shot twice at close range, then set afire. Although Roundtree was apparently murdered for being gay, the prosecuting district attorney, Karine Mareno-Taxman, declined to use the Wisconsin hate crime law. She admitted to the Lamdba Rights Network, which monitored the trial, that she had not even read the law.

Neither the NAACP nor the Urban League took an interest in the case, although it was widely publicized in Milwaukee as a hate crime.

Billy Preston Charged

MALIBU, Calif.—Billy Preston, singer and songwriter, was arrested Aug. 18 at his Malibu home on charges of sexual battery, possession of cocaine and showing pornographic material to a minor.


Billy Preston

Early Sunday morning Preston had picked up a 16-year-old male day laborer and alledgedly began smoking crack cocaine and showing pornography to the youth almost immediately.

Preston reportedly had the youth start cleaning out a barn, then pushed him to the ground and started grabbing his chest. The youth claimed he pushed the 45-year-old singer off of him and fled to a neighbor's home where he called the police.

Sheriff's deputies came, but found no one there. On a second try shortly after, deputies found Preston in the barn with a 19-year-old man apparently picked up at the same gathering spot. Preston was arrested and held until his attorney posted bail that evening.

Arraigned on Sept. 19, Preston insisted the youth "just told a bunch of lies," although he did not deny the cocaine charge.

Black Groups Get Walk $

NEW YORK—The AIDS Walk 1991 has resulted in cash grants in excess of a half millions dollars going to community based AIDS organizations. Some 26,000 participants raised over 4.1 million dollars in the sixth annual fundraiser, held May 19. The event is New York City's largest lesbian and gay community fundraiser, and provides a sizeable chunk of the $15 million annual budget to operate Gay Men's Health Crisis, the oldest and largest AIDS services organization in the world although only one-eighth of the funds raised will be divided among 60 grassroots agencies.

Among this year's recipients will be the Community Research Initiative; Gay Men Of African Descent; God's Love We Deliver, Inc.; the Hetrick-Martin Institute; Hispanic AIDS Forum; Life Force: Women Fighting AIDS; the Minori-

ty Task Force on AIDS; and the Women And AIDS Resource Network. This is the third year that funds have been dispersed to community based organizations.

GMHC executive director Timothy J. Sweeney, in announcing the grants, promised that "GMHC will always do what it can to support and assist other community-based AIDS groups so they can continue to provide the essential support services for people living with HIV/AIDS."

Black Gay Center Opens

BALTIMORE—The first Black Gay and Lesbian Community Center organized by and for African-Americans has opened its doors in Baltimore at 614 W. Lexington St., above Tikki's bar.

The BGCCB has a lengthy agenda for the African-American Lesbian and Gay Community. Provision of services for youth, women and people with HIV-related concerns is at the top of the center's list. Housing for homeless youth, a directory of local black lesbian and gay businesses, a hot line, newspaper, drop-in groups and social events are all in the planning stages, as are HIV-related assistance projects.

The center can be reached at 301-539-0942.

Multiculturalism Meet Held

CHICAGO—The Campaign To End Homophobia (CEH), held its third conference, "Challenging Oppression, Creating Multicultural Communities" in Chicago, July 5-7.

There were three days of panels and workshops designed to define and discuss societal oppression as well as to develop strategies and tools for societal change.

Darnell Bonds, co-chair of the Chicago Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays, focused on homophobia in the African-American community and the economic realities facing African-Americans. Both conditions make the coming-out process complex for black lesbians and gay men.

Raechele Pope, whose field is multicultural organizational development, used a photographic metaphor to trace biographical instances of her coming-to-consciousness as a biracial, bisexual female and stressed the importance of viewing identity not as a static image, but as an ever-evolving video.

Pope discussed the need to make room for and create new communities for multiply-identified people so that they are not marginalized, forced to choose a primary identity or answer the question, "which are you more?"

Latino AIDS activist Robert Vasquez Pacheco discussed radical cultural politics. "Questioning everything is the only way we're going to change the system," he maintained, adding that, "we need to locate our politic within our soul, our spirit, in order to make effective cultural change."

"Silenced Voices" with Richard Friend, co-director of Equity Works, addressed heterosexism and homophobia in the public school system.

Friend, who co-coordinates "Equity in an Era of Diversity," a four-day in-service program on racism, classism, heterosexism and ableism, said the program was mandated for faculty and staff due to pressure from the Philadelphia Lesbian and Gay Task Force.

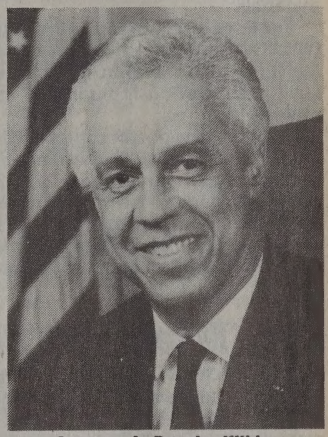
"Uprooting Racism and Classism" examined the relationships of power at both the personal and systemic levels.

The conference featured workshops ranging from "How Homophobia Hurts Heterosexuals," to "HIV/AIDS and the Isms," and "Biblical Perspectives on Homosexuality."

—Micki Leventhal

Wilder Speechless on Gay Ban

ALEXANDRIA, Va.—Virginia Governor L. Douglas Wilder has taken a reticent stand on a state law which prohibits bars from serving alcohol to lesbians and gay men.



Governor L. Douglas Wilder

In spite of a large number of Virginia legislators who feel the law is improper, most are unwilling to challenge it because constituents may construe opposition as a "pro gay rights" position. Wilder, who intends on running for the 1992 Democratic presidential nomination, is said to labor under the same apprehension. Conservative Democrats, whom Wilder is targeting, may be alienated by an unambigious stand against the law.

Although Wilder, the nation's first black governor, opposes blanket statutes that discriminate, he has declined to comment on the specifics of a lawsuit filed by the owner of a gay café to overturn the 57-year-old statute, which allows suspension or revocation of a liquor license for any place that is a "meeting place or rendezvous" for drunks, gamblers, homosexuals, pimps, prostitutes, drug users, panderers, drink-hustling "B-Girls," and habitual law violators.

It also forbids businesses dispensing alcohol from knowingly hiring anyone with the "general reputation" of being one of the above. Gay activist groups are taken aback by Wilder's stance and feel that because of his own experiences with discrimination, a vocal stand against the law should be a matter of conscience.

Although the state Attorney General's office has advised the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board to ignore the law's ban on gay bars, constant pressure initiated by Alexandria resident William Glasgow, Jr., is making it difficult for the board to avoid action.

—Michael Taylor

Black Gays Dominate Packet

NEW YORK—The work of four black writers dominates a newly available literature packet prepared by the Lesbian and Gay Adult Educators Committee for teachers' use. As advertised in the June/July edition of New York City's Literacy Assistance Center (LAC) calendar, the packet is designed for teachers "to add to your multicultural curriculum."

Contained in the packet are a *New York* magazine article

by Eric Pooley about a gay-bashing murder in Queens County last summer, and five stories of which all but one are by black authors.

"Most of the students we teach are people of color," Bruce Carmel told BLK, responding to why most of the writers were minorities.

"We got a big response on this," he said. "I heard from LAC that about 200 people asked for the packet," however there is no way to gauge how many teachers actually use the materials.

The three black authors in the collection are Becky Birtha (who is represented by two stories), Steven Corbin and Melvin Dixon. The fourth, Nicholasa Mohr, is Latina. All have been previously published and two are educators themselves.

Teachers may obtain copies of the packet by contacting LAC at 212-267-5309. The Lesbian and Gay Adult Educators Committee can be reached at 212-925-3001.

"We all want to have cultural diversity in our libraries, in our book collections that are available to our students," added Carmel. "What we're trying to do here is have that cultural diversity include lesbians and gay people."

—Eric K. Washington

Ryan Meets with Black Reps

WASHINGTON—Caitlin Ryan, the new director of the District of Columbia's Office of AIDS Activities met with members of the African-American community on July 8. The meeting took place a week prior to her assumption of the new position, which had been vacant for months.

Ryan and representatives of organizations from the District are looking at how to improve the relationship between the OAA and the black gay community, which in the absence of a director since Mayor Sharon Pratt Dixon was elected, had been considered dismal at best.

Participants of the meeting agreed it was a postive first step in what Ryan hopes will be a series of collaborations with the community in planning the OAA's new direction.

Black Gay AIDS Funds Vetoed

SACRAMENTO—Upon the recommendation of Dr. Wilbert Jordan of Martin Luther King Medical Center in Watts, California State Senator Diane Watson sought an allocation of $500,000 for research on the effects of various AIDS treatments on people of color.

Despite the fact that Watson chairs the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and steered the funding measure through the state legislature, Governor Pete Wilson vetoed the proposal, citing the state budget deficit.

Lorde Home After Vacation

CHRISTIANSTED, St. Croix, V.I.—Audre Lorde has returned home to St. Croix in the Virgin Islands after a short vacation to celebrate a successful chemotherapy session and to accept a $5,000 cash prize from the Astraea National Lesbian Action Fund.

Upon her return home, Lorde told BLK she felt indebted to the many well-wishers who had communicated with her during the trip.

"For the past eight years, I have been committed to the use of homeopathic immunosupportive therapy to keep the metastasized breast cancer in my liver under control," Lorde wrote. "When my liver failed in May, I made the decision for chemotherapy. I believe that decision, along with my previous eight years of immunosupportive treatment saved my life."

Francis Joins One Board

LONG BEACH, Calif.—Sabrina Francis joined the board of One, Inc., the administrators of the Center/Long Beach, as of their July meeting.

Francis, who arrived in Long Beach from Chicago last October, came to the Center in search of activities for African-American lesbians. Upon finding that there are no black organizations in the Long Beach lesbian and gay community, she offered to utilize her activist experience from Chicago to develop cultural programming for people of color.

Francis acknowledged the frustrations faced by others when organizations that need to exist as yet still don't. At the same time she expressed optimism because "the Center *is* trying to reach out. The challenge is to get the people to know there is someone here to hear you. You just have to keep plugging—you don't give up."

Pridgen Engages ACT-UP

BALTIMORE—Recently-appointed Baltimore City AIDS Coordinator Brenda Pridgen, accompanied by City Council President Mary Pat Clarke, greeted activists from ACT-UP/Baltimore in the middle of their protest action June 11 at City Hall.

Pridgen, who is African-American, was representing Mayor Kurt Schmoke to whom a mock coffin was delivered at City Hall as part of the protest against Schmoke's handling of the AIDS crisis in the city. Baltimore had not budgeted

any city money for AIDS services prior to 1990. In addition, Schmoke had been accused of being absent from major AIDS fundraisers and of not supporting AIDS outreach efforts. Schmoke had promised to open two primary care clinics in January which are still not open, according to Mark Shaw of ACT-UP. Shaw said that two-thirds of last year's Baltimore AIDS budget was spent on testing, counselling and tracing of patient contacts rather than on primary care.

Mayor Schmoke's new AIDS plan includes a $518,000 budget and a new Early Intervention Initiative which will provide comprehensive HIV evaluation and follow-up care. In addition, a branch of Johns Hopkins Hospital will offer an AIDS Clinical Trial unit. Another new project will develop a 27-unit apartment house for individuals, families and children with HIV disease.

KKK Ups Anti-Gay Activity

LANCASTER, Pa.—Leading up to the Nov. 20 defeat of former Ku Klux Klan leader and ex-neo-Nazi, David Duke, the KKK has re-emerged in several states, riding a crest of anti-gay hate incidents.

In Lancaster, Pa., where a law prohibiting anti-gay discrimination was passed in May, a local gay bookstore, the Closet, was bombed on June 24. The bomb was placed on the steps of the shop late at night resulting in several hundred dollars of damage, but causing no injuries. The shop has already re-opened.

The KKK threatened to march to the front door of the Closet on Aug. 24 in an attempt to close the business down. Owner Nancy Helm said that although the city had approved the permit for the KKK march, it denied the permit for lesbians and gay men to march simultaneously.

Meanwhile, 30 members of the KKK burned crosses in Springfield, Mo., for the first time since 1920. The 29-year-old director of the Missouri KKK, Steve Gullet, said, "By God, if some traitor commie can burn the flag, and queers can kiss in the park, we can have a religious ceremony."

In Fort Worth, Tex., threatening phone calls have been coming into the Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance and the homes of its officers. The anonymous callers have been saying, "a good fag is a dead fag" and "You should be burned like the Jews." So far some 45 phone calls have been received.

Sex Orientation Added

MIAMI—For the past two years, Florida has had a hate crimes law on its books that levies a tougher penalty on a criminal whose crime "is committed out of prejudice against the victim's race, color, religion, national origin or ethnicity."

An amendment which was pushed through at the end of the state legislative session adds a victim's sexual orientation to the list of prejudices.

In 1990, 360 hate crimes were reported, of which 69 percent were acts of violence. The original bill passed in 1989 did not go into effect until 1990.

Police departments have now begun to train investigators to recognize and gather evidence of hate crimes.

One of the concerns among African-Americans in the lesbian and gay community is that such crimes are not reported to the police. The fear of negative repercussions felt in the general lesbian and gay community is compounded by traditional prejudices particular to black lesbian and gay culture.

If the crimes are not reported, offenders cannot be duly prosecuted. Yet such prosecutions will help deter future gay bashing crimes, activists have urged. —*Rice Blaque*

5 Inmates Die at State Prison

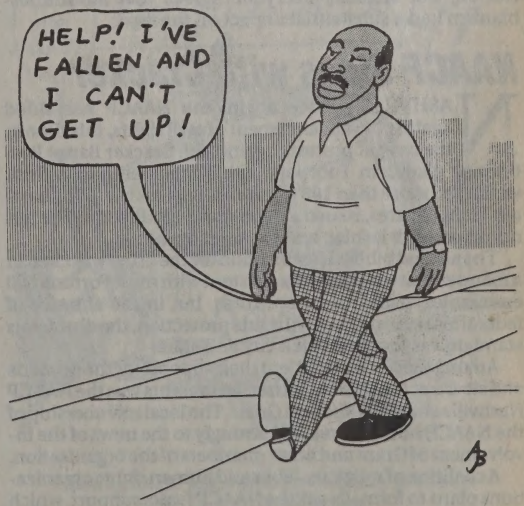
VACAVILLE—Five inmates died on July 5 at the California Medical Facility of the Department of Corrections, a record number. The Vacaville hospital prison is the center for California's controversial HIV treatment among male inmates. While it is not known if any of the inmates who died were infected with HIV, the deaths have brought to light the conditions at the medical facility to the general public.

Dr. Germán Maisonet, an outspoken black and gay advocate for the rights of prisoners with HIV, was still angry over the deaths when he spoke with BLK. Dr. Maisonet, who has been treating prisoners with HIV at the Vacaville facility, told BLK that the level of care was tied into an insufficiently trained staff. Although not in Vacaville at the time of the deaths, he planned to review the investigation to ensure the safety of his patients.

Officials said the sudden onslaught of a heatwave, the anti-psychotic drug Haloperiodal which three of the inmates had been prescribed, and the failure of the air conditioning unit at the prison, all contributed to the deaths.

Black Teens on 'Donahue'

SAN FRANCISCO—Lesbian and gay teens took to the airwaves, on prime time in the San Francisco Bay Area and nationally on the *Donahue* afternoon talk show. Racism, violence and acceptance by peers and family were among the subjects that the lesbian and gay youth had



the opportunity to speak about.

Dominique DiPrima, host of KRON's Home Turf Summer Mix, said "we chose key issues and there was no way not to include gay and lesbian youth." The lesbian and gay youth in the audience were augmented by a culturally diverse group of speakers, including some from the Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center, a youth counselor and entertainers Marga Gomez and Monica Palacios.

Donahue devoted much of his show on lesbian and gay youth to Jennie Livingston's award-winning film, *Paris Is Burning*. Featured was Dorian Corey of House of Corey, Pepper of the House of LaBascia, Danny from House of Xtravaganza and Willie from House of Ninja.

Donahue spoke with the house mothers and models from New York City vogue balls at great length emphasizing the alternatives to despair and isolation they offered while cultivating the sense of an alternative family. Family members of two of the models were also on the program, as was Dr. Marjorie Hill, of the New York City Mayor's Office for Lesbian and Gay Concerns and Ben Dykew, president of the University of Minnesota Gay Community.

Lesbian Tops 8; Later Loses

TAMPA—In a contest that the state director of the conservative American Family Association called a referendum on the city's addition of sexual orientation to its human-rights law, a black lesbian emerged the top vote-getter in a field of eight.

Nadine Smith, a former *Tampa Tribune* reporter, garnered 1,040 votes—or 27 percent of the total—in the Sept. 10 special election to fill a city council seat left vacant by an incumbent indicted on felony charges. But in the Oct. 8 runoff with her closest rival, second-place finisher Les Miller, the 26-year-old activist lost, receiving 42 percent of the vote.

Tampa lesbians and gay men took comfort in the knowledge that, despite Smith's loss, the fundamentalist Rev. James Sykes was knocked off the ballot.

Name recognition was a big factor in the outcome of the run-off, but virtually everyone agrees that Smith's lesbianism had a substantial impact on the race.

NAACP Sides with Cracker

NASHVILLE—Once again, the NAACP has sided against the advancement of civil rights, this time in the case of protests against the Cracker Barrel Restaurant chain. In February, the Tennessee-based firm, which has more than 100 restaurants across the Southeastern United States, issued a memorandum directing the termination of all lesbian and gay employees.

The alleged biblical justification for the firing was cited in a manner that would be inconsistent with most Fortune 500 companies' personnel procedures, but in the absence of federal lesbian and gay civil rights protection, the dismissals stand unless fought in each city and state.

Among those who have lent their support for the boycotts and sit-ins at the Cracker Barrel Restaurants was the NAACP Nashville chapter's Michael Grant. The local membership of the NAACP, however, reacted strongly to the news of the involvement of Grant and other members of the organization.

A coalition of religious, labor and human rights organizations plans to formally ask the NAACP for its support, which Grant, in the face of the homophobic reaction of local members, doubted would pass. Ironically, the tactics applied by protesters—adopted from black civil rights groups of the '50s and '60s—are having a marked impact on the Cracker Barrel chain's business, and have forced the corporation into negotiations. William Bridges, vice president of human resources and the alledged source of the anti-gay employment policy, has left the firm.

Training for the demonstrations and protests came from the Martin Luther King Center in Atlanta, to assure that all activities would be legal and non-violent. Observers from the MLK Center have participated in a number of the protests.

Protesters have been arrested, threatened, taunted and searched. Jody Waller, a Cracker Barrel manager, hollered at one group of protesters in Douglasville, Ga., "you and your kind are not welcome here. We don't want your kind."

Indigo Boycott Called Off

BOSTON—The issues surrounding the boycott against Indigo, a Boston nightclub, have been settled, with the bar agreeing to undergo racism-awareness workshops for its staff and to develop advertising which reflects racial diversity.

The settlement was arranged with activists from the Alliance of Massachusetts Asian Lesbians and Gay Men and the Association for Right On Sisters.

No Refunds from Sheriffs

WEST HOLLYWOOD—The West Hollywood station of the Los Angeles Sheriffs hurriedly put together a prostitution abatement team to make up for the loss of several hundred hours of duty-time it owed the city.

West Hollywood contracts with L.A. County for its police protection, but had recently transferred a number of deputies to other assignments.

Portions of Santa Monica Blvd. have been popular with gay men for years for both cruising and hustling, particularly a strip running from the City of West Hollywood though the City of L.A. A growing number of the youth—many of whom are homeless—practicing survival prostitution are young men of color. Special neighborhood watch signs posted on the street identify the "Prostitution Abatement Area," which warns that all prostitution-related laws will be enforced.

There have been repeated complaints that black and Latino men walking on the boulevard are disproportionately stopped by deputies and questioned.

Black Gay Man Wins Case

WASHINGTON—A gay may in Washington D.C. was recently awarded $20,000 in damages after the settlement of a discrimination complaint he filed against the city's Department of Human Services (DHS).

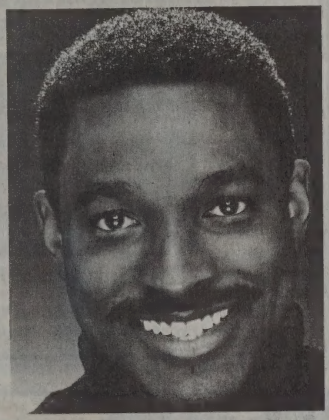
Kevin Dickerson claimed that a DHS employee, after opening his case file and discovering he was a person with AIDS, said she would have to ask him to sit in a seat away from her desk.

The D.C. District Commission ruled that DHS discriminated against Dickerson and ordered the agency to pay the $20,000 damage settlement plus attorney fees.

During a reception held at Rascals, Dickerson "tithed" donations to several agencies whose services he has used since his AIDS diagnosis, including the Whitman-Walker Clinic AIDS Foundation and their Black Male Empowerment Group.

Chambers Stars in 3-Part Play

DETROIT—Wayne Preston Chambers, a masters candidate at Wayne State University, presented a performance in three parts, *Triptych*, at the Harmonie Park Playhouse in downtown Detroit.



Wayne Preston Chambers

Triptych is a one-man play concentrating on three very different personalities of black gay men. Chambers took on the challenge of portraying a gay father, a snap diva, and enacts an AIDS worker who eventually succumbs to the disease.

Chambers, who has extensive stage experience and training, co-wrote *Triptych* with Clayton Wilson and the late Allen Williams. Chambers was an early member of the black gay men's writer's coterie which evolved into Other Countries. By popular demand *Triptych*'s run at Harmonic was extended through October.

Physique Medals Awarded

SAN FRANCISCO—Nearly a third of the 37 medals won at Physique '91, the fifth annual Lesbian and Gay Bodybuilding Championship, went to people of color. The event, sponsored by the Arcadia Bodybuilding Society, featured athletes from around the world competing for gold, silver and bronze medals.

Medals were awarded in both men's, women's and mixed pairs divisions, including categories for bodybuilders over 40, 50 and 60 years of age. Jon DeLeon repeated his win last year for best poser, and also picked up a gold medal with Andy Anderson for men's pairs. Jan Austin lugged home the most medals of the evening, picking up the Gold for women's best poser and women's best abdominals and a Silver in the women's heavyweight division.

Mayor Makes Gay Selection

KANSAS CITY—Mayor Emanuel Cleaver attended the 1991 lesbian and gay pride celebration with his family and announced the appointment of Luther Washington as liaison to the lesbian and gay community.

A 30-member mayoral commission was formed including African-Americans Rita Rogers, Aaron Swar, Rev. Nelson Thompson, Bill Whitcomb and former city councilperson Joann Collins, who also serves as chair. The commission has already submitted a report with recommendations for meeting the needs of the lesbian and gay community.

Right wing fundamentalists harrassed Cleaver, who is black, from the beginning of his campaign for mayor. The attacks, which mixed racism and homophobia, did not end with his electoral victory.

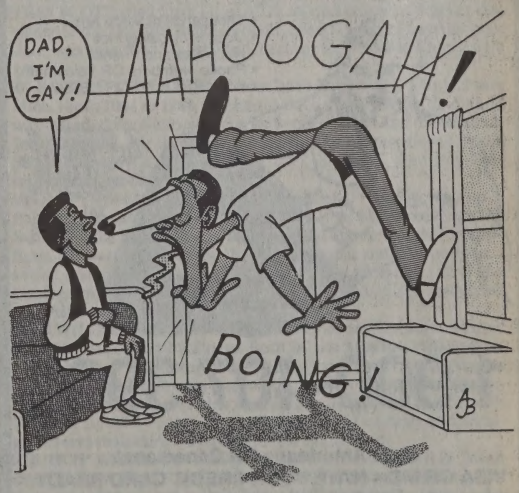
Prior to the announced appointments, meetings were held with various lesbian and gay leaders to iron out differences of opinion and misunderstandings.

Panel Discusses Black Gays

SEATTLE—The Seattle Commission for Lesbians and Gays hosted a roundtable discussion on homosexuality in the Randolph Carter Center, located in the black community. The event was co-sponsored by Mayor Norm Rice and organized by Commissioner Milton Farquehar, both of whom are African-American. Also, co-sponsoring were the Black Family Center and People of Color Against AIDS Network.

The roundtable discussion was intended to serve as a forum for heterosexual Blacks to express feelings and perceptions of homosexuality as related to three main topics: youth and self esteem, harrassment, and HIV/AIDS. The objective was to explore attitudes, debunk myths and develop a plan of action that would lead to improved relations and cooperation between gay and non-gay community members.

The discussions were led by Deborah L. Johnson of Los Angeles and W.J. Brandy Moore of San Francisco, both longtime black gay activists. *—Tripp Hunter*



"Coming out to loved ones occasionally produces the 'Roger Rabbit' effect."

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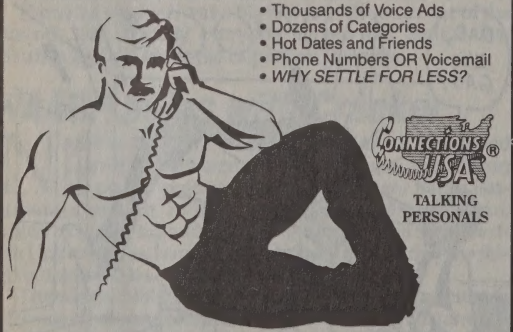

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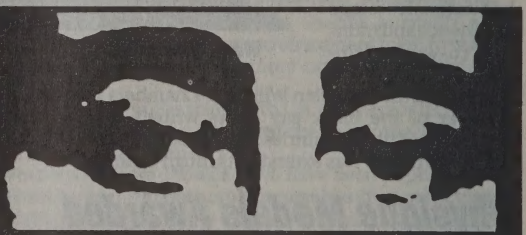

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BLK VEIL

Obituaries are published free of charge. They are accepted from funeral directors, families, lovers, friends and AIDS service organizations. Include your name, address and phone number for our records. We prefer to write the notice ourselves from the details you provide. If known, include the deceased's principal city of residence, correct legal name, any nicknames or pseudonyms by which they were known in the community, dates of birth and death as well as locations of birth and death. In addition, include all relevant biographical and professional data in both early and later life. Don't assume any detail or accomplishment is too small to include. Although, we edit notices to not more than eight lines, it is better to have too much information than too little. We can provide information gathering forms on request.

FREDERICK ABRAMSON, died June 1 of AIDS related complications in Washington, D.C. according to the *Washington Blade.* He was 56. Abramson, a native New Yorker, was a graduate of Yale University in 1956 and the University of Chicago Law School in 1959. Among his many achievements Abramson was the first black person to head the Office of Bar Counsel for the D.C. Bar. He was particularly concerned with educating his legal colleagues on AIDS issues. He was a panel member for Whitman-Walker Clinic's AIDS Foundation.

JAMES LEROY AUSTIN, died Mar. 17 of complications associated with AIDS. Austin was born Aug. 7, 1923, grew up in Virginia later moving to New York. Near the end of World War II he joined the Army and also served in the Korean War. While living in New York, Austin worked as a motion picture projectionist in many 42nd Street movie houses. He was 68. He is survived by family and numerous friends.

BENJAMIN SCHUBERT BABER, died July 12 of AIDS related complications as disclosed in the *Washington Blade.* Baber, attended Pratt Institute of Design in New York and worked as a fashion designer. Many of his designs were featured in fashion shows, including those of the Congressional Black Caucus. As a resident for some time in the Washington area, Baber appeared on talk shows and local news broadcasts that featured his designs. He was 34.

DAVID WARREN FRECHETTE, 43, was born Feb. 21, 1948 and died May 11 of AIDS related complications. An active member of MACT and GMAD, Frechette was also a founding member of Other Countries. As a journalist he conducted interviews with prominent people. He also wrote numerous essays, reviews, short stories and poems. Some of his work is found in *Brother to Brother.* He will be included in *The Road Before Us (100 Gay Black Poets)* and his poetry manuscript *Too Through* will be published in 1992.

HENRY FRANKLIN JACKSON, born May 2, 1939 in Warm Springs, Ga., was a world-renowned professor and lecturer in African-American Studies and Political Science at Hunter College. Hunter received his B.A. in Political Science from Ohio State, his M.A. in Political Science from Colombia and his Ph.D. in Algeria. Among his published works are his poem, "Cafe de Banzo"; two books, *The FLN in Algeria: Party Development in a Revolutionary Society* and *From the Congo to Soweto: U.S. Foreign Policy Toward Africa Since 1960.* Hunter died Aug. 15 at the age of 52 of AIDS related complications.

JOSEPH JAMES, born Christmas Day, 1955, died May 30, 1991 according to *B.A.R.* James was born and raised in Eastman, Ga. and moved to Atlanta in 1976 where he became successful as a fashion designer. He took the grand prize in the National Beefeater Fashion and Jazz design competition. He is survived by George Taylor, his lover of nearly ten years; his brother and sister-in-law; and other family and friends.

ALBERT TERRELLE JONES, also well known as "Miss T" was born Nov. 2, 1951 and died June 6 as reported in *This Week in Texas.*

ALFONSO JULIUS JORDAN died of AIDS associated complications at the age of 49. He was born Mar. 8, 1942 in New York City and was raised in Harlem and Savannah. After living in Detroit, Brooklyn and New York, he settled in New Jersey in 1973. Jordan was employed as a tutor and community aide at the United Community Corporation and International Youth Organization. His interest was in fashion and design. A parishioner of Grace Episcopal Church in Newark gospel music was his inspiration.

HOWARD MORRIS, died April 16 of AIDS related complications as reported in the *Washington Blade.* He was 31. Morris had degrees in Marketing and Nursing and was a certified therapist and holistic practitioner. He was founder and president of Holistic Health Alternatives and director of nursing for the Whitman-Walker Clinic. He was a consultant to IMPACT and chair of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Sexually Transmitted Diseases and a co-founder of Us Helping Us. Morris was a member of the Unity Church of Christianity.

LUIS ROBERTO NEGRON of Washington, D.C., died on May 11 of AIDS-related complications. Negron, 24, was born in Bayamón, Puerto Rico. He studied airlines and tourism briefly at International College in San Juan. He is survived by his mother, Carmen; sisters, Desire and Priscella; brothers, Oscar and Ruben; aunt, Carmen; and his friend, Ric Potter.

WILLIAM "BILL" PEELER JR., died June 23 of AIDS related complications according to a report in the *Washington Blade.* A graduate of Roosevelt High School in Washington, D.C., he attended Washington Technical Institute to pursue his education. Peeler was employed by the Washington Transit Authority for the past 10 years as a bus operator. He is survived by his parents, a host of relatives and many friends.

ANTHONY TOMORRIS PUGH-DAVIS, was born Feb. 19, 1961 in Flushing, N.Y. He was 30 when he died Aug. 11 of AIDS related complications. A graduate of both Crenshaw High School and Los Angeles Southwest College. He worked as a counselor or teacher at the Exceptional Children's Foundation, Hollypark Christian School and Arminta Street Children's Clinic. Pugh-Davis was a member of Unity Fellowship Church where he led the Unity Steppers in the 1990 Christopher Street West Parade.

FREDDY L. ROBINSON, died April 18 of AIDS related complications. He was 35. Born Mar. 3, 1956 in Greenville, Miss., he first moved to Dallas before he made Houston his home. Robinson is survived by his lover, Larry Treece, and many other friends.

JEFFREY SCOTT, died June 11, of AIDS related complications as disclosed in the *Bay Area Reporter.* Scott, a San Francisco Bay Area resident, was born May 27, 1959 and for some time lived in Chicago. He was 32.

JOHN EDWARD STOCKARD, JR. was born Mar. 29, 1946 in Jackson, Mich. From 1964 to 1968, Stockard served in the Marine Corps and was awarded the National Defense Service Medal and the Vietnam Service Medal. For the past several years he was employed by the Salvation Army as an executive chef. Stockard died July 7 as reported in the *Bay Area Reporter.*

CLARENCE THOMAS-ROSS JR., was born June 4, 1952. Growing up in Baltimore he attended Kalamazoo College and later moved to the San Francisco Bay Area where he attended Stanford Univ. for some time. He was employed by IBM for 11 years, most recently as a senior systems engineer. His interests included music, travel and photography. Thomas-Ross died July 3 of complications associated with AIDS as reported in the *Bay Area Reporter.*

MILTON WILLIAMS, well known caterer, author and restaurateur died Aug. 23 after a lengthy illness. Born in Los Angeles, Williams received his formal training in the culinary arts at the Frank Wiggins Trade School. Williams was author of a cookbook and his informative *Party Book.* He was also an interior decorator. The Milton F. Williams Tutorial Center, a free school for slow learners and immigrants was maintained by Williams for many years.

ERICE 'DON' WILSON, a Chicago resident who was born in South Bend, Ind. on Aug. 15, 1952, died July 16 of AIDS related complications as reported in the *Gay Chicago.* While living in Indiana, he studied theater at the university. Wilson worked 13 years in a Chicago area hospital. His activitism included volunteer work at Howard Brown Memorial Clinic and he served as an officer and member of Black and White Men Together/Chicago. He was 38.

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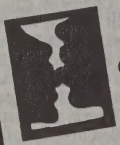

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READ MY LIPS

BY PRESTON E. GUIDER

Arsenio Hall is suing Arsenio's Pizza of Cleveland for using his name without his permission...The **Southern Christian Leadership Conference** sponsored an AIDS informational workshop at Atlanta's Perry Homes Recreational Auditorium...Did you see **Marlon Riggs,** giving credit to the memory of **Bayard Rustin,** on the *Ron Reagan Show*?...Detroit's social scene was sparked by **BBC**'s third anniversary celebration. Those of us who attended are still beaming from the class and charm. From **Robert Tate**'s Friday night affair to Saturday's Top of the Ponch with the fabulous piano stylings of **"Marvin."** Then came Sunday Brunch at the St. Regis (why didn't they have, WOW, WOW) on to Jimmy's Sunday nite *savior vivre* that is to be used as the only way to entertain! Hats off to the sisters and brothers of BBC...Other News from Detroit... **Todd's Disco** that had been a part of the social scene for 16 years and closed down two years ago is *back* on Wednesdays. Hopefully Friday and Sunday will follow. A restaurant is scheduled to open in Todd's...The **James Baldwin-Pat Parker Society** of Detroit hosted a cultural event of black lesbian and gay performances entitled, "Our Names Are..." on Oct. 5 at the International Institute...**Full Truth Fellowship Church** hosted its second anniversary celebration Sept. 13-15...Denver Groups...**Sister II Sister** meets Fridays at 7 p.m. at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Colorado, 1245 E. Califax Ave. #125. The **African-American Gay Men's Group** meets on the first and third Sundays at 5 p.m. For further information on these or other support services available at the center call 303-831-6266; voice or TTY ...Nine of us will be among nearly 50 in an educational ad sponsored by the Lesbian and Gay Public Awareness Project. Set for the year-end issue of *People* magazine, the full-page ad includes **Vernell Armstrong, Lamond Ayers, Larry Duplechan, Antonio D. LeMons, Pamela Fairbanks, Patricia Fowlkes, Xavier Hall, Lisa Powell, April Valerio** and **Vallerie Wagner.** Upcoming ads will also appear in the black and Latino press...Any truth to the rumor a script is in circulation around tinseltown about invisible black lesbian ice-pick murderers who kill movie directors?...San Francisco gave birth to the Blue Lights Campaign, to put a light in the window of every American home for AIDS awareness. In Harlem, green ribbons are being worn in the black and Latino communities, but red ribbons are being worn by Broadway's actors and actresses. In Long Beach, Calif., **Project Ahead** has ribbons in a multitude of color combinations (where we chose a subtle purple and rust)... Has anyone checked out the new dating service in New York for black and Latino men? Call 212-246-3811, ext. 255 and let us know what you find... **Creating Change West** brought several hundred activists—ranging from Queer Nation types to suit-and-tie people. The ubiquitous **Phill Wilson** spoke Friday, but other African-Americans got their chance the next day: **Charles Stewart, "D" Cannon, Genie Cowan, Sandra Farrington-Domingue, Sylvia Rhue, Leonard Simon, Richard Slaughter** and **Ruth Waters.** The People of Color Caucus meeting was disappointing as these things usually are: frustrations aired with no direct ability to make changes... Two groups between whom no love is lost will both hold conferences in the same city on the same days. The **Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum**'s National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference will take place in Oakland February 13-17, 1992. The **Black Men's Xchange**'s National Cultural Gathering and Retreat will also take place in Oakland February 14-16, 1992. Since both groups have fierce loyalists, both conferences are likely to be successful. Whatever the strategy behind the double scheduling—the Forum apparently announced its dates first—the potential exists for beneficial cross-pollination. Still, we can't wait to hear the real "T" from those unaffiliated with either group.

"...and I'd like a box of Ironman unlubricated latex condoms with a reservoir tip, a jar of water-based lube containing at least 5 percent nonoxynol-9, a supply of dental dams, an S-VHS stereo VCR with wireless remote, slo-mo and pause control, and the collected works of Ty Jones."

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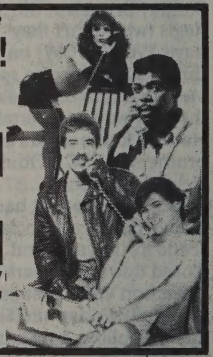

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For black or African-American gay and lesbian Christians who wish to correspond with others, Across the Miles has been created. This correspondence program will enable people to share what God is doing in their lives, spiritual discoveries made, questions regarding scriptural passages or living the life as a Christian, and prayer requests. This program is not a matchmaking service, but it is possible to meet others through correspondence. Across the Miles is a non-denominational enterprise, and is not affiliated with any established Christian church or religious organization. Those people interested in corresponding should send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Across the Miles, 5217 Hollywood Blvd. #401 Hollywood, CA 90027. Attn: James-Imani. All inquiries will be quickly replied, and all information is kept confidential. (34)

Wanted: Issue 1 of Sierra Domino Newsletter. Photocopy okay. Willing to pay reasonable fee, costs of photocopying and postage. Call Alan Bell at 213-410-0808, or write BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. (34)

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Eddie Smith Hairstyling for men and women, 7115 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90046 (½ block west of La Brea). 213-874-7210 work, 213-462-1220 home. Conditioning, coloring, relaxers, perms, jheri curls, hair extensions. Featuring Nexus products. Open Tuesday-Sunday. Call for an appointment. Your satisfaction in hair care. (TF)

24-hour Crisis Hotline. Professional help is just a phone call away now! Depression, anxiety, AIDS-related mental/emotional problems. Other psychological problems. 1-800-444-9999. The Open Quest Institute. Serving our community since 1978. (E)

ORGANIZATIONS

Club F--Frottage. Multicultural social group for frottage men (rubbing). The Center, 208 W. 13th St., NYC. First Thursdays, 8 p.m. (35)

Lesbian soccer players wanted for multi-ethnic team. Gay Games 1994. 408-279-0974. (35)

Outreach for couples. Support the positive aspects of alternative lifestyle relationships thru social informative events held twice a month in San Diego. For more info, call Steve/Keith at 619-283-6243 or Kate/Kim at 619-475-4407. (36)

The West Indian Social Connection asks: "Would you like to get back to your roots?" Further information, call 213-962-6867 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday-Friday and leave a message. (34)

Hairy men/admirers. Bears/trappers. Nationwide explicit adlistings. Infopak $3.00: Hair, 59 W. 10th, NYC 10011. (35)

Singles club forming in San Francisco for African-American gay men who want to meet and date other African-American gay men. ✐140. (E)

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Bookkeeper Gay Men of Color Consortium, Outreach and Promotion of Services Project, $10-$15. Send resume and cover letter to Gay Men of Color Consortium, AIDS Healthcare Foundation, 1800 Argyle #304, Los Angeles, CA 90027, Attn: Elizabeth. For information, call 213-462-2273. (34)

Counselor. Qualified counselors needed immediately. Experienced and/or appropriate education. Generous compensation. Call 818-356-0027. (34)

Curator. The 1992 San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival seeks a guest curator for lesbian/women's programming. This is a temporary part-time training/skill-building position that offers a stipend of $3,000. Qualified candidate should have knowledge of contemporary lesbian film/video and possess strong administrative skills. Experience with other film festivals a definite plus. Women and people of color strongly encouraged to apply. Send resume and cover letter to: Frameline Curator, Box 14792, San Francisco, CA 94114. EOE. (34)

Distribution assistant. Frameline, a non-profit lesbian/gay film and video organization, seeks a part-time distribution assitant. Responsibilities include booking films, distributing press kits, invoicing, shipping, accounts receivable, correspondence, answering telephone inquiries and maintaining client contacts. 20 hours per week. Salary $10-12K DOE. Women and people of color strongly encouraged to apply. Send resume and cover letter ASAP to Frameline Distribution Assistant, Box 14792, San Francisco, CA 94114. EOE. (34)

Fundraiser. Half-time, responsible for overall fundraising for NCLR including coordination of events, major gift campaign, membership and direct mail programs, writing of grant proposals and overseeing of United Way and combined federal campaigns. Starting date January 1, 1992. Salary: DOE, range $12,000-15,000, 20 hours per week, plus pro-rated benefits. Send resume, including at least three references to: Liz Hendrickson, Executive Director, National Center for Lesbian Rights, 1663 Mission St., 5th Fl., San Francisco, CA 94103. (34)

Houseman. Young, honest, hard-working houseman wanted by retired professional single man in Palm Springs for part-time job: four hours per day to clean house, care for yard and pool. Small salary plus free use of separate one-bedroom furnished condo. Extra salary and possible full-time job if you have driving, cooking, massage or other skills. After six months I will pay for your books and tuition at local college if you want further education. References required. ✐156. (35)

Medical/clinical administrator. New clinic. Community clinic knowledge helpful. Manager/nursing background a plus. Knowledge of procedure mandatory. Experienced only. Computer experience. Motivated and organized. Don Levy, 213-259-5675. (34)

Office manager. The Gathering Place. Daytime drop-in center for persons with HIV in South Central on Slauson. Full-time office manager with background in cross-cultural interactions, especially with persons with HIV. Computer literate, filing, record-keeping systems, oral and written skills. Call the Gathering Place at 213-295-2687 between 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (34)

Physical therapist with Calif. license and biofeedback experience needed for new gay and lesbian medical clinic. Experience in hyperbaric medicine a plus. Don Levy, 818-356-0027. (34)

Project Director AIDS Prevention Team. Salary $24,000-$26,000. Send resume and cover letter to Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, 2538 Hyperion Ave. #7, Los Angeles, CA 90027. For information, call 213-666-5495. (34)

Project Director Gay Men of Color Consortium, Outreach and Promotion of Services Project. Salary $24,000-$30,000. Send resume and cover letter to Gay Men of Color Consortium, Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, 2538 Hyperion Ave. #7, Los Angeles, CA 90027. For information, call 213-666-5495. (34)

Psychologist. Part-time, per diem work offered to licensed clinical psychologist, experienced in individual and group therapy. Knowledge of chemical dependency disorders required. Therapeutic orientation compatible with 12-step and non-discriminatory programs, gay and lesbian sensitive. Don Levy, 818-356-0027. (34)

Public Affairs Director. Direct media and activist programs for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. PR experience and excellent writing required. Resume to: GLAAD, 80 Varick St. #3E, NYC 10013. (34)

Sports Writer. BLK is looking for a neophyte or experienced journalist to cover sports in the black lesbian and gay community across the country. A major focus will be ongoing coverage of Gay Games '94. If you're willing to put in time for basically expenses only, call 213-410-0808. Or write BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. Will train the right person. (34)

Trainer, AIDS Prevention Team. Salary $22,000. Send resume and cover letter to Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, 2538 Hyperion Ave. #7, Los Angeles, CA 90027. For information, call 213-666-5495. (34)

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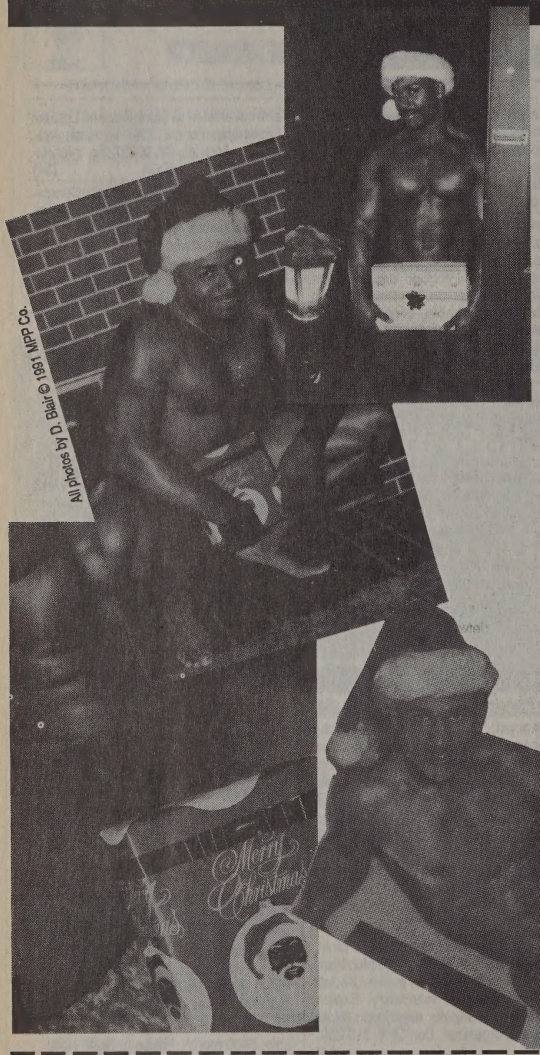

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Each card in the BROTHERS line is an actual color photograph carefully recessed in a panel on the front of a folded card. Each Christmas card contains a special greeting inside that will definitely make your card one that's remembered. Some Nudity.

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Make check out and mail to:
The MPP Company
P.O. Box 10752
Oakland, CA 94610

ITEM	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL
BLACK SANTA GREETING CARDS		$20 per box	
CA RESIDENTS ADD TAX 8.25% ($1.65 each order)			
POSTAGE & HANDLING			$2.25
TOTAL			

Signature X _____

I am over 18 years of age

TALKING PERSONALS. CALL 1-900-407-8666

TO HEAR AND LEAVE MESSAGES FOR ☎ ADS. $1.95 FIRST MIN. 95¢ MIN. THEREAFTER.

83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912(TF)

Independent filmmaker Ann Alter and writer/researcher Laine Goldman are seeking your honeymoon tales for their new documentary film--horizontal mambo and other honeymoon tales. Funded in part by the Ohio Arts Council and the Center for New Television NEA Regional Fellowship program, this feature-length documentary chronicles the romantic passage of the honeymoon and investigative dynamics of a ritual rarely discussed in professional and/or private life. Co-directors/producers Alter and Goldman are asking individuals and couples to share their honeymoon tales from the traditional to the offbeat. Special attention is being made to contact lesbians and gay men, people of color, the physically challenged and seniors. Alter and Goldman also encourage "honeymoon specialists" to share their insights and theories. Lesbian, gay men, people of color and seniors are encouraged to send inquiries, stories and suggestions to Horizontal Mambo Productions, Box 5657, Athens, OH 45701. (34)

The Multi Media Arts Gallery is looking for work by lesbian and gay photographers for a show that will be held at the gallery during Jan. 1992. The work may be documentary, experimental or fine art. Work that is considered sexist, racist or violent in any way will not be accepted. To have your work reviewed by the gallery director photographers should call 212-966-4080 to set up an appointment. (34)

Submissions are now being accepted for Short Fiction By Women, a new magazine publishing the finest literature by women writers. The magazine needs unpublished short stories, novellas and novel excerpts. All women writers, including lesbians and women of color, are encouraged to submit their work. Stories from both unpublished and published writers will be considered. Want top-quality, strong, original short fiction. A short biography/bibliography of each author will be included. Payment will be based on length and funds available. The magazine will own first serial rights only. Writers should submit one typed, double-spaced manuscript and include a SASE for return of manuscript. Send submissions to: Rachel Whalen, Editor, Short Fiction By Women, Box 1276, Stuyvesant Sta., New York, NY 10009. The first issue will be published in the fall of 1994. (34)

At the Crossroads, a new visual, performing and literary journal for women artists of African descent, is seeking submissions of written and visual art. Manuscripts of poetry, short stories, journal entries, experimental writing, radio plays, theatre, interviews, screenplays, transcribed performance pieces, reviews, essays and all other forms of creative and analytical writing are welcome. We want submissions of visual art, including line drawings, sketches, graphics, illustrations, photographs, murals, mixed media, printing, collage, sculpture, quilts, beadwork, textile art, etc. Send black and white photographs or photocopies of work. Do not send your original copy of art work. All submissions should be accompanied by a bio, brief statement about the work and any other relevant information. At the Crossroads is especially interested in receiving submissions from women in the Maritimes region and writers who have not yet been published. Manuscripts that do not arrive with a self-addressed, stamped envelope will not be returned, so send copies only. All photographs will be returned. Send to: Attn. Karen Augustine, At the Crossroads: A Journal for Women Artists of African Descent, Box 317, Sta. P, Toronto, ON M5S 2S8, Canada. (34)

FOR SALE

"Seed Money In Action: Working the Law of Tenfold Return." Audio tape. $12.95. Miller, Box 6211, Chula Vista, California 91909-0015. No checks please. (34)

Traditional African designs with an American flair. Handmade. Write ANKH Enterprises, African Clothiers, Box 46085, Los Angeles, CA 90046. (35)

Bad bold black men! For introductory set (10 men, 10 photos), send age (21+), signature, $10 to Zebra Studios, Box 138271, Chicago, IL 60613. (38)

"Black Handfulls" features five hot black men—each new to video—in solo jackoff. Do it while they do it. Spurt when they spurt. Full length 90 minutes. Rated XXX. Specify VHS or Beta. State and sign that you are over 21. $29.95 plus $3.05 shipping and handling. Check, money order, Visa, M.C. or Amex. No cash. Nubian Video, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd., #109-38B, West Hollywood, CA 90046-5186. (34)

Skins, the fanzine for kinky uncut men. Free ads. Sample copy: $4 and statement of age. CB&V, Box 97694, Las Vegas, NV 89193. (39)

Gay magazines. Pack of 6 hot used magazines. Just $15. P&H, Inc. Send check or M.O. to Island Marketing, 127 S. Shore Dr., Island Lake, IL 60042, State you are 21. (37)

BLK T-shirts, satin jackets, baseball caps, sweatshirts, key tags, back issues, note cards, etc. now available mail order. Write: BLK Mail and Femail Store Catalog, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. Or call 800-TRUE-BLK, anytime 24 hours a day, seven days a week. (TF)

MASSEURS

Muscular black ex-marine with strong, sensual talented hands will relieve you of any and all stress, tension, etc. Try me once and you'll be back! Discount to seniors. Friendly service. Dick 619-294-3589 for appt. (34)

Attractive, well-built guy (29, 5'7", 140#), experienced, offers deep thorough relaxing massage to other in-shape guys by candlelight, table, $40 in West Hollywood, $? out. Greg, 213-650-6265. Calls verified. (34)

Randy Cochran. 818-997-3776. L.A.'s hot top black studman. Hung huge, yet versatile. 28, 5'9", 160 lbs., with a tight smooth body. 24-hour, in-out sessions. $125-$200/hr. Video titles include "Black Attack," "Heatwaves," "Black Force" and many more. Visits are in person...Not associated with 976-WOLF. Safe sex okay. (E)

DATING SERVICES

Women, 50-70, meet friends/lovers with similar profiles. Send SASE, your profile, $5 to Seniors, Box 31703, Baltimore, MD 21207. (34)

Date by area code. Over 14,000 online talking personals. Direct contact or voice mailboxes. Rotary phones welcome. 1-900-726-2040 ($2 P/M). (35)

Dating service specializing in matching compatible lesbians, gay men, HIV+ men. $40/six months, $60/full year. Unlimited introductions. Matches based on profile, feedback, psychological research on compatibility, personal touch. License: Serving out of Southern California. Chums Introduction Network Service, Inc. 213-461-5664 or 800-231-CHUMS. (E)

WOMEN'S PERSONALS

BGM seeking Bi/lesbian female for friendship. Box 32624, Long Beach, CA 40832. (36)

Oakland California lesbian, 33, spiritual, intelligent, seeks friendships and correspondences of class and distinction. 145. (E)

Bi-black male seeking hard body, very dark, bi-black females for safe, sexual, no drug, no smoking, highly sexual encounters with myself and others. Call James, 213-969-4789. (E)

Black woman, honest, clean, intelligent, professional, financially secure, optimistic, adventurous, spiritual, lesbian! Send descriptive letter, photo, etc. San Diego. 139. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS INTERNATIONAL

French white man, 38, live in Paris alone, serious, sincere, romantic, seeks black man, loving, like dildo. Exchange naked photos. Also audio, video tapes. François Maury, 15, rue Carmen, L'Hay Les Roses 94240, France. (34)

GWM, 25, seeks GBM, Box 500130,W-6, Frankfurt, Germany. (36)

GWM, 38, 5'10", 165#, athletic, hairy body, dark balding hair, green eyes, moustache, attractive, friendly, well-traveled, multilingual, Greek active, seeks big, muscular, hung, warm, sincere, straight-acting, Greek passive GBM for fun, friendship, visits. Other races welcome. Photo please. Atlan, 8 Passage Lathuile, 75018, Paris, France. (36)

37-year-old Italian executive, brown hair, blue eyes, good looking, uneffeminate, loves movies, travel, animals, quiet weekends, quality time. Looking for GBM uneffeminate, serious, creative, intelligent. Send detailed description and photo. Bruno Varale, Piazzale Siena 2, 20146 Milano, Italy. (34)

German man, 44, 170, seeks black man (top) for friendship. Letter, photo to Box 6526, D-7500 Karlsruhe 1, West Germany. (36)

Black man, 26, seeks penpals. Kofi, Box 482, Dansoman Est. Accra, Ghana, West Africa. (35)

GWM, teddy-bear, seeks dominant black male tops for intimate friendship and fun. Black is sexy and that's what I love. Doug, #103-4800 Arbutus, Vancouver, BC V6J 4A5, Canada. 604-263-3991. (TF)

MEN'S PERSONALS—AL

Fine black men wanted. Box 370171, Birmingham, AL 35237. (34)

Stocky brunettes wanted in Birmingham. MDC, 16th Ave., North Birmingham, AL 35204. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—AZ

GWM, 62, bottom, 1651 E. Glenn #117, Tucson 85719. (36)

MEN'S PERSONALS—CA

Northern California

Goodlooking, shy, built, country, homebodied GWM: in touch with his feminine Yin seeks company with his opposite, masculine Yang. Be a strong, loving, gentle, macho top male, black or white. Reply with photo and letter to: Occupant, Box 422693, San Francisco, CA 94142. (35)

GBM, tall, muscular, 44 years old and bottom, likes getting screwed by tall or well-built guys, 30-45. I invite men of all races to respond, but am very fond of whites. 494 Lake Park Ave. #150, Oakland, CA 94610. (34)

TV wanted. Tony, 5337 College #516, Oakland, CA 94618. (35)

Emmette Mitchell, C-22649, C-7-110. Box 29, Represa, CA 95671. (35)

Psychic? Paranormal experience? Lets talk. Louis, 415-474-5377. (36)

Daytime BJ for masculine, firm, drug-free, HIV- males. Tenderness. Respect expected. Men of color are special treats. Phone and photo appreciated. R.B., Box 21633, Concord, CA 94521. (34)

BLK TALKING PERSONALS

Fast. Easy. Cheap.

Respond to ads with a ☎ symbol by phone. Call 1-900-407-8666 and follow the instructions. You can call 24 hours a day. Just $1.95 for the first minute and 95¢ a minute thereafter.

Respond to ads with a ✎ by mail. Write the ✎ number on the outside of your envelope and send it to: BLK Classifieds, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. All mail is forwarded FREE.

Fast. Easy. Free.

You may place a printed ad of up to 30 words in BLK FREE. We'll mail you a TALKING PERSONALS mailbox and password FREE. Then call 1-900-407-8666 and record your personal greeting. That's *not* free, but it's only $1.95 for the first minute and 95¢ a minute thereafter.

To place your ad and get your mailbox and password, fill out the form below and mail it to BLK Classifieds, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. (Printed personal ads may only be placed by mail.)

I am of legal voting age and want any mailed-in responses to my ad to be sent to:

Name_____

Address_____

City_____

State_____ Zip_____

☐ I want a printed ad and a TALKING PERSONALS mailbox.
☐ I want a printed ad only.
■ If you want a TALKING PERSONALS mailbox only, you need not mail us anything. Call 1-900-407-8666 directly.

Write the text of your personal ad (up to 30 words) here. Ads that are NOT personals should use the appropriate classified ad form elsewhere in this issue.

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NOTICE OF FUNDS AVAILABILITY (NOFA) AND REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

TO ALL AGENCIES INTERESTED IN SUBMITTING PROPOSALS TO PROVIDE AIDS RESIDENTIAL SERVICES AND/OR AIDS EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

On Wednesday, November 27, 1991, the Office of the AIDS Coordinator, CDD Human Services & Neighborhood Development Division, will issue, subject to City Council & Mayoral approval, a NOFA for capital funding for projects providing residential services to poor, low & moderate income City residents with HIV infection and an RFP for projects delivering AIDS education and treatment information to communities at high risk for HIV infection.

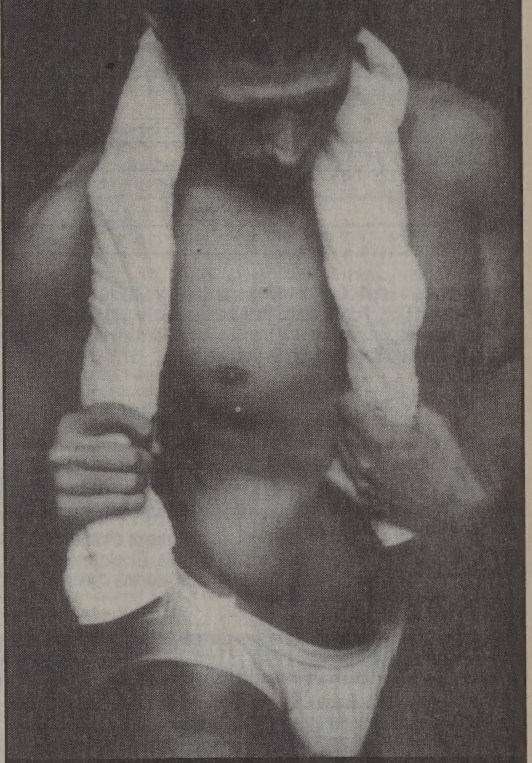
On Wednesday, November 27, 1991 after 12 noon, interested parties should call the number listed below to confirm that the NOFA and RFP documents will be available to be picked up at CDD (215 West Sixth Street, 6th Floor, L.A. 90014) from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Completed Residential proposals received by December 30, 1991 will be reviewed for third round funding, and completed AIDS Education proposals will be due by December 30, 1991. Information about minimum requirements, allocations of funds, eligible project types, instructions, technical assistance, and evaluation procedures is contained in the NOFA and in the cover letter of the RFP.

If you have any questions about the release of the NOFA or the RFP, please call:

PETER ORDAZ, OFFICE OF THE AIDS COORDINATOR
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
(213) 485-6320 TDD (213) 485-8532

FIND IT AT THE MIDTOWNE SPA



MIDTOWNE SPA

Los Angeles	Dallas	Houston
(213) 680-1838	(214) 821-8989	(713) 522-2379
615 S. Kohler St.	2509 Pacific	3100 Fannin St.

Denver	New Orleans
(303) 458-8902	(504) 566-1442
2935 Zuni	700 Baronne St.

BLK

Classified Ad Form

(for Ads Other Than Personals)

THE LEGAL STUFF

■ **Complete and sign the following. None of this information will appear in your ad.**

Name_____

Address_____

City_____

State_____ Zip_____

Phone (_____) _____

■ I am an adult of legal voting age and consent to the placing of my ad in BLK. I understand that the Blk Publishing Company is in no way responsible for any transactions between myself and any persons I contact through its publications.

Signed_____

NON-PERSONAL AD RATES

■ Personal ads of 30 words or less are free of charge. The 31st word and each additional word is 40 cents. Employment offered ads are 10 cents per word. **All other ads** take the rate of 40 cents per word.

THE RULES

■ Deadline: Six weeks prior to date of publication.
■ Ads received after deadline will appear in the following issue.
■ Open account billing available on approved credit. Terms: Net 10 EOM. Minimum charge is $15. *Credit must be approved in advance.*
■ **Rules and regulations.** *A word is any group of letters or numbers with a space on either side of it.* Free ads may run a maximum of three times, then must be renewed. We reserve the right to reject, rewrite or edit ads including those that advertise or solicit sexual acts considered unsafe by current AIDS criteria. Telephone numbers in ads must be verified prior to publication at a charge of $3 (within California $1). If a number has been previously verified by BLK, attach an ad containing the number to your new ad. Advertiser's complete name, address and authorizing signature must accompany ad. This information is confidential and will not appear in your ad.

BY TELEPHONE

■ You may place your ad by telephone and charge it to Visa, MasterCard or American Express if your order totals $15 or more.
■ Call toll-free 1-800-TRUE-BLK anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Tell the computer which credit card you have, the card number, expiration date and what you want your ad to say.

BY MAIL

■ Ads may be paid by check, Visa, MasterCard or American Express. Do not send cash.
■ Send to: BLK Classifieds, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912.

BY CREDIT CARD

■ Minimum for credit card billing is $15 whether by phone or by mail.

Name of credit card_____ Expires_____

Credit card number_____

YOUR AD

■ **Print clearly what you want to appear in your ad. Use a separate sheet if you need more space.**

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■ **Figure cost of ad:**

____ words at 40¢	$_____
____ words at 10¢	$_____
Cost to run ad one month	$_____
Number of times you want ad to run _____	
Total cost of ads	$_____
Phone verification at $3 (within CA $1)	$_____
Two-year (24 issues) subscription at $30	$_____
One-year (12 issues) subscription at $18	$_____
Total enclosed (send no cash)	$_____

TALKING PERSONALS. CALL 1-900-407-8666

TO HEAR AND LEAVE MESSAGES FOR ☎ ADS. $1.95 FIRST MIN. 95¢ MIN. THEREAFTER.

BM, 41, 5'8", 145, slim attractive, health-conscious, wants to pen-pal with other slim health-conscious black males around the same age. ✐ 141. (35)

Slender white bottom seeks hung GBM. Oakland area. Box 5294, Pleasanton, CA 94566. (34)

Attractive, muscular black man, 35, 5'11", 220, seeking other big, well-built men of any race between 20-50. French active/passive, J/O, oral body worship. Send letter with photo to 1221 Broadway, Plaza Level #13-131, Oakland, CA 94612. No fems, fats or phonies. (34)

San Diego Area

Free fone J/O submissive seeks dominator. 619-292-1922. (36)

WM, 42, with long tongue and rim chairs seeks BM with bubble butt! Write to Box 1880, Cathedral City, CA 92235. (42)

Attractive black male 39, active French, passive Greek, seeks intelligent, hung top stud for serious relationship and fun. 619-521-1341. (40)

Latin professional male seeks masculine top, sincere, honest, non-bar type, no drugs, vices, non-smoker, desires quality long-lasting relationship. 619-295-4531. (35)

You: Hot top GBM. Me: Young Latino. 619-274-0507. (35)

Hot, desert topman (GWM): masculine, oversexed stud! "Mac," 619-343-1220. (36)

Handsome, healthy, discret sexually-young 60 Italian Bi/GWM, GrP/FrA bot, seeks sincere, mature 55+, Bi/GBM top for friendship/? Serious replies w/pix/photo answered promptly. Ben, Box 249, San Luis Rey, CA 92068. (34)

White man seeks extra hung top. Tom, 619-262-6046. (34)

White hunk, 30, exhibitionist, seeks same. Box 33361 San Diego, CA 92163. (34)

BiBM seeks surfer. Box 126234, San Diego 92112. (35)

Los Angeles Area

Attractive, black male, 41, 6'2", 195 lbs. Okay, that's the physical side. Also am professional, successful (so they tell me), intelligent, a good listener, and fun to be around. Enjoy music, working out (no, not bodybuilding, just working out), movies, eating in good restaurants, stimulating conversation, and long romantic nights. You are attractive, black male, with most of the above qualities (age is not a factor ...there are mature 26-year-olds, and there are also 35-year-old teenagers). If you are seriously looking for an interesting, stimulating and romantic companion, please write and send a photo with your phone number. The good times are waiting. (35)

Venice Beach. Half-Japanese male seeks seriously sincere relationship-oriented black male for possibilities. Uncomplicated lifestyles and conversation appreciated. 310-399-2953. (34)

Sexy, 6', blond, blue eyes, swimmer's bod, wants to meet well-equipped GBM for fun. Gary, 714-494-4790. (35)

BM to BM, 30-40+. Let's float, let's glide as inside you I ride. David, Box 84174, L.A., CA 90073 (34)

GWM seeks GBM. Me: goodlooking, 6'4", 205 lbs., big dick into AA recovery, gym. HIV+. You: tall, black guy with real big cock into finding a relationship/lover. (36)

Baldwin Hills GWM seeking masculine sex buddies. 213-294-4739. (36)

GBM, 40s, 5'10", 145, seeks hairy, hung, black males or black Hispanics. No fats, fems. Photos a plus. ✐ 151. (35)

Looking for that special someone? Me: 5'9", 156, BRN/BLK, outgoing and looking for fun. You: 25 and over, medium to husky build, Latino or black, honest, discreet and special. Call Ron, 213-246-6833.(34)

Attractive GWM,44, 6', 185, hairy-chested, moustached, professional, easy-going, sensual, healthy, versatile, oral--seeks very muscular (bodybuilder a plus), black male for regular mutually satisfying meetings. 213-433-9712 before 10 p.m. (36)

Blond wants healthy, tall, GBM hung and horny. Call Roy 818-896-8890. Let me satisfy you. (34)

Plump top BM likes black buffed cake/buns to put 7 1/2" real deep. David, Box 84174, L.A., CA 90073. (34)

Quality black male wanted 30 y/o white male, 6'2", 175, muscualr defined body, tan, healthy, HIV-, hung, mostly bottom but versatile. You must be over 5'8", 180, dark, smooth skin, mostly top, HIV-, muscular and big legs a plus, no attitude and self-sufficient a must! Mostly interested in developing a relationship, but will consider "dates." Include picture, phone #, and interests and I will respond to all. ✐ 152. (34)

Handsome, 29 year old East Coast Italian, 6', 180#, straight act and appearance wants to meet football- player-type, beefy, black man, healthy, agressive and versatile for fun and friendship. ✐ 153. (34)

Boyish GWM, 36 y/o seeks black, Latin, Mid-Eastern, well hung top for friendship and more. Me: 5'10", 150 lbs., perfect ass, hung extra large, versatile. 213-936-1968. (34)

Latins R Us! Meet Latins and admirers for dates, pen friends, lovers and more. For free info send a SASE to HMS, 8721 Santa Monica Bl., #338-BK, Hollywood, CA 90069. (34)

Young, slim, masculine, black guys wanted by GWM, 45, 6'2", 165, blond, blue, (HIV-) for friendship/relationship. Inexperienced OK. Love the outdoors--camping, hiking, mountains, beach. Romantic--cuddle, kiss, hold hands. You: great smile, independent, wants love and can give love. Non smoker/drugs. Not into bars. Ben 818-785-1028. (34)

BM, 41, 5'10", 165, wants relationship. Call 818-891-2186. (36)

If you're blk and top man, enjoy getting sucked, well hung and horny, call Jim 818-344-1913. No calls on Sat. (34)

Attractive GBM, seeks tall, handsome GWM. 213-852-0219. (36)

5'11" to 6'2", are you out there? Plump top with plump 7 1/2" wants to ride and slide and glide in your buns, your beautiful black buns! Write--we can have fun. David+, Box 84174, L.A., CA 90073. (34)

Plump top B/M likes black buffed cakes/buns to put 7½" real deep. David, Box 84174, L.A., CA 90073. (34)

BGM would like to meet other BLK/SP GM for friendship and maybe relationship. I am 6'1", 185 lbs., 47, top. Bust be sincere, honest and into safe sex. Call 213-307-1184 and leave message. (34)

Attractive masculine black male bottom 30s, 6', 170, wants to meet very well hung masculine top studs hung 9" and over for safe fun and friendship, uncut a +. 213-932-8375 after 7 p.m. and weekends.(34)

WM, beefy, BB, 38, Masc, 6'2", 220 lbs, 46C, 17A, 33W, big thighs, humpy butt, bottom seeks tall, hefty, hung, black tops only over 40, 200 lbs dominate masc, prof. Send # to Box 17106, Irvine, CA 92713. (35)

Greg from Modesto: I was too stunned to talk right. I can't believe I forgot to ask for your phone number. Please call. (34)

Prof. BBM seeks TV/TS for serious relationship. Oriental a plus, but open. P/P or no answer. J. Williams, Box 1891, L.A., CA 90078. (35)

Attractive GBM, HIV+, health, 5'7", 35, warm, loving and extremely affectionate, seeking a dominate (top)/masculine GBM, well endowed, who enjoys romance, walks on the beach, movies, bid whist and spades, exercising together and fun times. I'm seeking a serious 1-1 partnership or relationship. If you are serious about spending quality time together, call Mikey at 213-508-6220. Leave your name and number and I'll call you back. All calls answered. Serious callers only please! (34)

Conan build, BiWM, 8", 30, seeks black tops or versatile. 18-40. 8" minimum who'll be in my home video. Los Angeles area. Dan, 805-746-4601. (34)

This very attractive brown skin male, 30, 5'10", 150 lbs. seeks a brown skin overly attractive uncut HIV+ pretty boy, 21-27. Call Chris 213-487-3471. Read this ad twice before you call. (37)

Friend wanted by health conscience, financially secure, handsome black professional, 32, 6', 175lbs. Above all, you should have similar characteristics, be straight-acting, goal-oriented, aware of world events, and capable of intelligent conversation. Race is not important. ✐ 146. (34)

BGM, HIV+, 30, SAG, kind, loving, warm personality, wheelchair bound, speech impaired, seeking a BGM, with similar qualities and seriously interested in me. Call Mark at 213-756-5975. Serious calls only! No call after 11 p.m. (34)

GBM, 30, 5'7", 170 lbs., smooth, aerobics, nice body, race unimportant, prefer straight acting, HIV-, good sense of humor, adventurous and mature period. Glendale, CA. Pictures answered first. ✐ 147. (35)

If you're GBM with a big cock, call Alex, 818-896-8890. Blond wants to please you. (34)

Cute blond bottom seeks giant muscular dominate man. 818-765-5132. (36)

Grateful, attractive, healthy HIV+, GM, 30s, seeking man of character, warmth, humor and spiritual foundation. Into friends, family, music, movies, dancing, outdoors, sports, sober living, world cultures and unity. RU2? Please write to M.K., Box 661011, L.A. 90066. (34)

BM, HIV- like older WM friends. 2322 Redondo Blvd., L.A. 90016. (35)

Attractive GBM, HIV+, healthy, 5'7", 35, warm, loving and extremely affectionate, seeking a dominant (top)/masculine GBM, well endowed, 6'2" or taller, who enjoys romance, walks on the beach, movies, Bid Whist. and Spades, exercising together and fun times. I'm seeking a serious 1-1 partnership or relationship. If you are serious about spending quality time together, call Mikey 213-508-6220, leave your name and number and I'll call you back. All calls answered. Serious callers only please! (35)

Lets rub until we cum. 213-852-0219. Arian. (35)

Handsome black man, 35, 195#, well-built, who likes to workout with weights and jog on a daily basis, would like to meet honest, sincere person for friendship, white or hispanic, who loves the outdoors and some sports. Rod, 213-938-2004 before 11 p.m. (34)

GWM, 40s, seeks (1) super hung blk top man and (1) super hung blk bottom man for hot and safe 3-way sex. Write to Allen, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd. #109-332, West Hollywood, CA 90045. (34)

Hot P.R. seeking one in-shape butch blk/Latin hung X-thick. Me: 37, 135#, 5'6". Willie, 213-657-2539. (34)

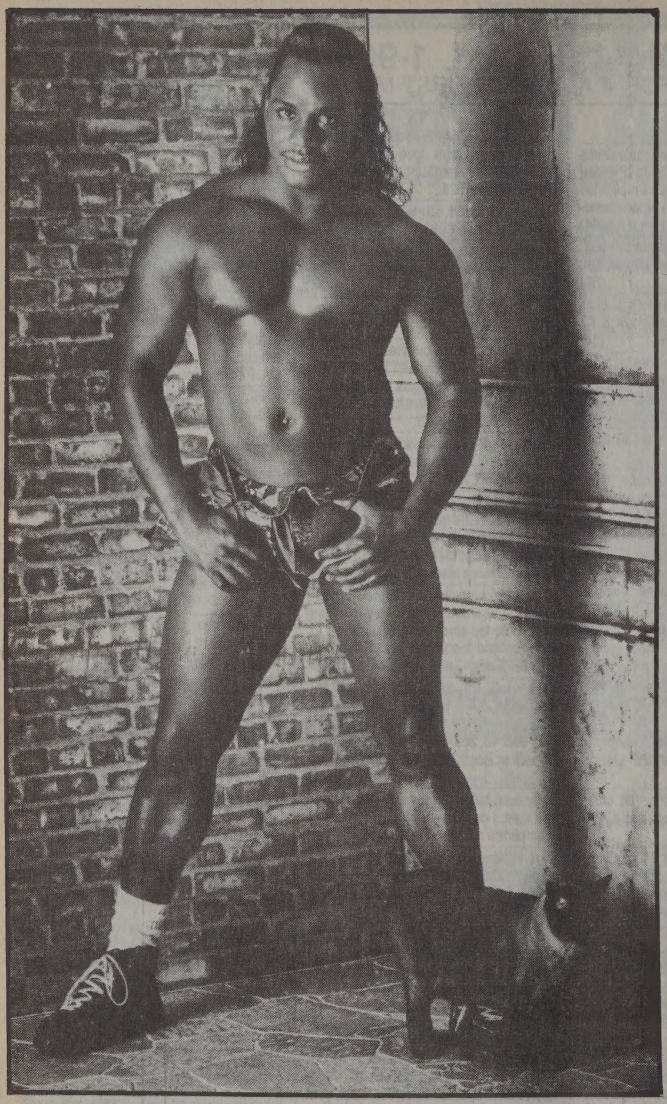
Fat GBM, 18-30, 250+# sought by GWM. R.A.S., Box 4013 Chatsworth, CA 91313-4013. (36)

Couple looking safe sex. Box 19543, LAX 90019-0543. (34)

Satisfies loving. HIV- dad. Box 5950-243, Orange 92667. (35)

If you're GBM with a big cock, call Alex 818-896-8890. blond wants to please you. (34)

Gay male, 37, 5'9", 165 lbs., blue eyes,



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XXX RATED

I am over 21.

x _____

Credit card number _____ Expiration date ____

NUBIAN VIDEO
7985 Santa Monica Blvd. #109-38
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Stunning attractive GBM seeks WM for great times. Robert, 213-937-7622. (34)

Commitment and values: B/M, 38, 5'11", 170, G/P seeks an affectionate tall G/A white or black top man 40-55 who likes 1-to-1, homelife, mountains and stability. Mel, Box 71247, L.A. 90071, 213-656-0258 ext. 22. (36)

Attractive black male, 5'10", 190 pounds, muscle-toned body, 34 years of age, seeks attractive, white male of the same stature or taller for outdoor fun, adventure, and quiet cozy evenings. No j/o calls. Relationship-oriented only. Call before 11 p.m. Ask for Biff. 213-931-3637. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—CT

BM, 25, 6'2", 200, masculine, top, seeks masculine GM. No fems/fats. Letter/photo to Boxholder, Old State House P.O., Box 230020, Hartford, CT 06123-0020. (34)

GWM, 24, attractive, professional, stable, seeks similar GBM for friendship. Box 79, Groton, CT 06340. (36)

Congenial white male ISO black male. Box 284, Hartford, CT 06141-0284. (TF)

MEN'S PERSONALS—FL

Blk/M, 24, wants to meet males 18-30. I'm 24, 5'5", 170, 8". Tampa and other Florida males write Box 172551, Tampa, FL 33672. (35)

GWM, 39, 5'9", 144, mature, educated, affectionate, seeks non-smoking men of similar age and any race. John, Box 2354, Winter Haven, FL 33883. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—HI

Blond/blue, handsome, endowed professional seeks young, affectionate Afro-American. Military/visitors welcome. Rick, 808-924-3761. (36)

MEN'S PERSONALS—IL

GWM, 30s, blond, 5'9", 140 lbs., attractive, athletic, tight body, masculine, versatile seeks GBM for safe fun and more. 312-327-4895. (36)

Black Bi male, 5'9", 155 lbs., masculine, muscular, X-Marine, 29, 8½ and thick. Seeks Blk or Hispanic right guy, non-fat, non-fem. Me: versatile w/foot fetish. Box 06283, Chicago, IL 60606-0283. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—IN

GBM, 36, Christian, desires GWM friendship. CEP, 425 Connecticut St. #302, Gary, IN 46402. (34)

GWM, 27, blond, blue eyes, honest, caring, loving, romantic. Answer all letters. Box 30, Pendleton, IN 46064. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—KY

Gay white male, 29, looking for sincere blacks for possible relationship. Can relocate anywhere upon release. James Fitzgerald #98743, Northpoint Training Center, Box 479, Burgin, KY 40310. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—LA

GWM, 47, 6', 175, non-smoker, moustache, hairy chest, enjoys reading, traveling, movies and dining out. Seeking masculine male, 35-50, with similar interests for friendship and more. Please send letter/photo: Dick, Box 15078, New Orleans, LA 70175. All replies answered. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MD

Down-to-earth, 51-year-old straight-acting WM is looking for a very masculine BM who is interested in a meaningful relationship. Blue collar, thick endowment and trim or muscular build are pluses. Send detailed letter and photo to ✐ 154 or call 301-779-6738 (evenings/weekends). (36)

It could be you! Would like to meet the right person for the right thing. Johnny 7, Box 56, Temple Hills, MD 20757. (37)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MI

WM, 32, 5'7", 155#, would like to meet BM for wild and freaky times. I am into leather and have a bubble butt. You must also! Possibilities for a relationship. No J/O calls. 313-527-2965. (35)

Yo baby yo baby yo. Puerto Rican black male top wants black Puerto Rican/Latino/Arab/Mexican men, bottoms. Fun, friendship, homeboy love. Later man. Let's get busy. Yeh! Jeff, ✐ 155. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MS

Handsome Samson. Brent, Unit 28, #44219 Parchman, MS. (34)

Sex god. Butler, Unit 28, #45779 Parchman, MS. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NE

GWM serarching GBM. Versatile bodybuilder. 190+ and 6'0"+. Boxholder, 2211 Jones #3F, Omaha, NE 68102-3017. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NV

Together blackman, "In the Life" sought by GWM 37, 5'11", 210, affectionate, loyal, healthy, non-drinker, tobacco use, professional, sense of humor, happy, intelligent, and reasonably good looking. You: GBM 30s/40s with similar qualities. I am more interested in what's between your ears than between your legs. I am looking for the following in a potential friend/life-mate: willing to risk love, no hard drugs/booze, clean, open-mined, honest, non-angry, emotionally stable, demonstrative, real, educated, employed/employable with mostly similar interests: science, technology, art, real estate, reading (sci-fi to Joseph Beam) music (Motown to disco), movies, dogs, home life, old cars, dinners out, cooking, socializing, not a barfly or size-queen, in search of a long-term relationship (my last was with GBM, 10 years), romance, travel (S.F., etc.), massage, general safe sex. You should, if we click, be willing and able to live in this occasionally bigoted and culturally isolated city of Reno, Nevada. Please no hustlers, con, user, bisexuals, confused, mental cases, attitude, one night stands, violence, or emotional instability or those without the willingness or ability to contribute 50/50 in building a relationship, these need not fill my P.O. Box. Your phone # or letter will get my reply. Bill A., Box 9201, Reno, NV 89507-9998. (35)

GWM, 35+, 5'10", 155#, G/P, F/A, masculine, stable, multifaceted, seeks loving relationship with sincere successful GBM having similar goals and interests. Travel can be arranged. Call Mike directly. 702-792-6737. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NJ

Latin male, prof., clean, masculine, mid-forties, seeks the same in a black older gentleman only. No vices or pain. Occupant, Box 392, Passaic, NJ 07055. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NY

Muscular, hard runner's build, versatile, HIV-, hot, hung, smooth, upbeat, professional GWM, 44, 5'5", 128 lbs., enjoys outdoors, fitness, arts, work, romance, humor, travel seeks warm-spirited, firm-bodied, hot-blooded, creative-minded, healthy-habited, GBM, 30-48, any location. Share best of country and city. Fun/friendship, maybe relationship. Rick, Box 4102, Utica, NY 13504. (35)

Puerto Rican, 51, seeks top black men. Cruz, Box 1574, Bronx 10451-1574. (36)

Attractive white male, 33, 6'3", 175 lbs. professional, seeks black guy, independent, good-looking, creative and a real communicator, available for friendship and dating. ✐ 150. (35)

YGBM wanted for fine romance. Blond sophisticated older man (spirit of 30-year-old), witty, perspective. Seeks vital, bright, humorous 25-35. Serious fun relationship. Disco dancing, theater, films. NY/LA/FL. Photo: Box 1578, Old Chelsea Station, NYC 10011. (34)

Elderly, African-American gent, 66, retired professional, well-educated/well-traveled/great conversationalist, white-haired, medium brown skin, very short, stocky (5'3", 155), shy recessive, plain looking; seeks male friends-30 years plus, all types: African-American, Orientals/Asians, E-Indians, Native American Indians, Hispanics, Arabs, Caucasians, etc., who are masculine, aggressive, intelligent, discreet. No drugs. Dave, 212-681-0179, 9 p.m.-midnight only. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—OH

Attractive BM, 25, seeks gay lover. DeWayne Guynes #179-432, Box 45699, Lucasville, OH 45699. (36)

W/M 26, smooth bottom. Sami Cripple. R138659, Box 120 Lebanon 45036. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—OK

Goodlooking GBM. Raibon #33325-004, Box 1500, El Reno, OK 78067. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—SD

GWM, 41, HIV-, seeks black men of all ages for correspondence, friendship and safe sex. Write to Tom, Box 1041, Rapid City, SD 57709. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—TN

GWM, 47, looking for hung topman for playmate. Race unimportant. Honesty is. Carl Cannady, 414A E. Old Hickory Blvd., Madison, TN 37115. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—TX

Seeking GBM. Attractive GWM, 31, 6'1", 200 lbs., seeks blk male for friendship, love and more. Call or write Dennis Seay, Box 710048, Houston, TX 77271. 713-777-8342. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—VA

Suck me. Balsom, Box 430, Dillwyn, VA 23936. (35)

GWM, 55, 160#, 5'9", stable, sane, secure, non-smoker/drinker, HIV negative, seeks similar black male under 40 years old, non-obese for friendship, good times, mutual pleasures and possible relationship. Box 23093, Alexandria, VA 22304. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—WA

GWM, Christian desires GBM friendship. B.H., Box 3263, Seattle, WA 98144. (34)

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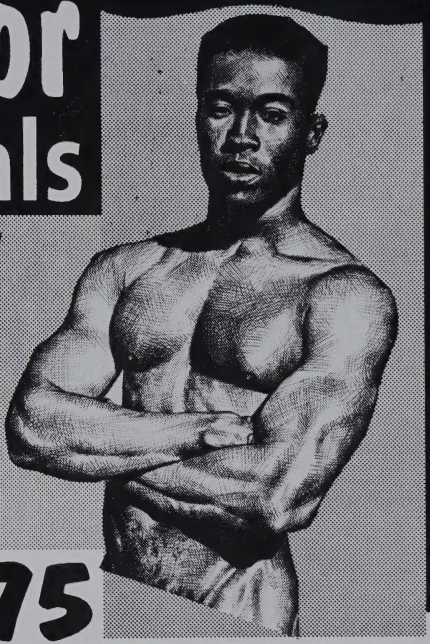

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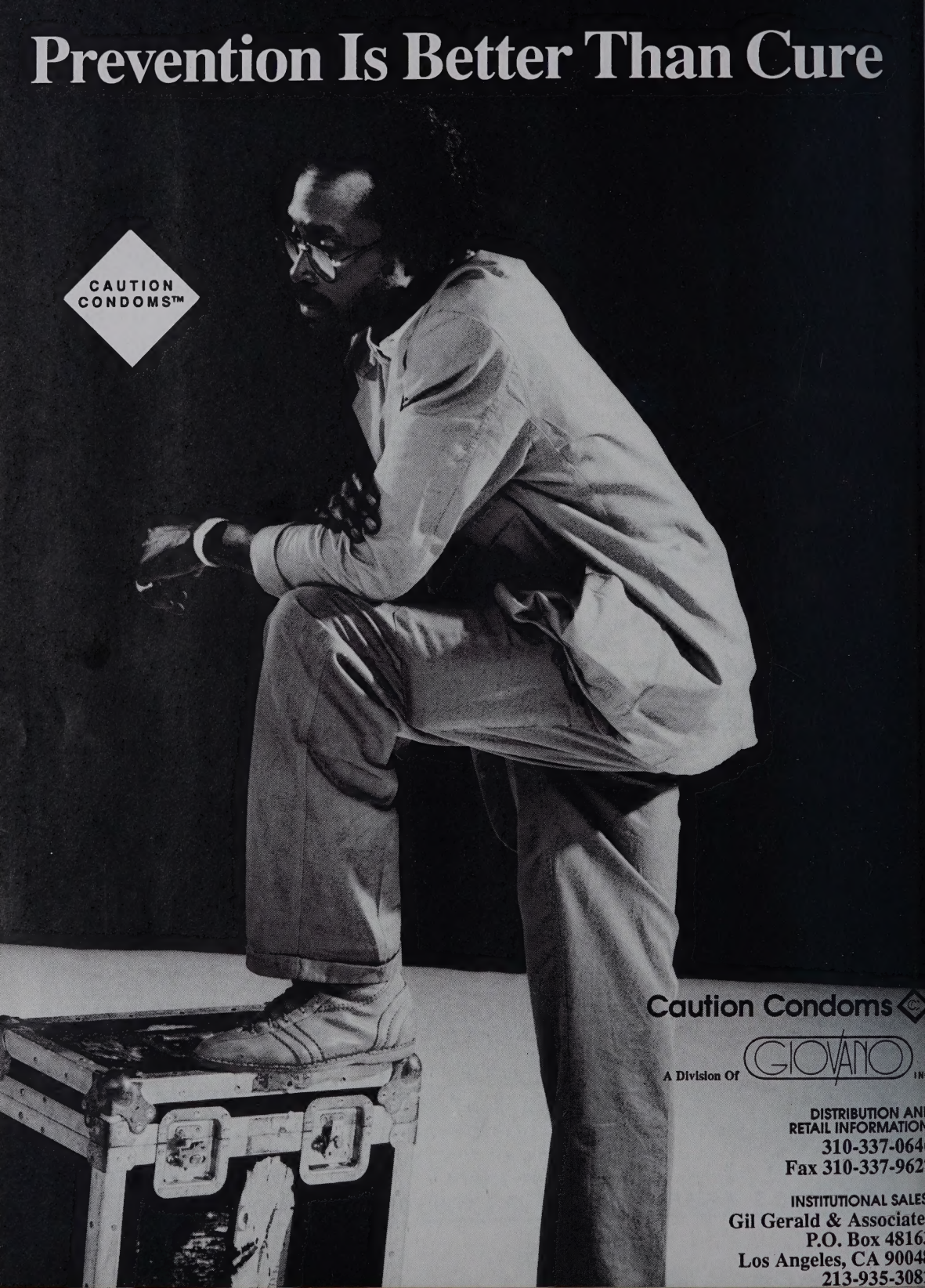

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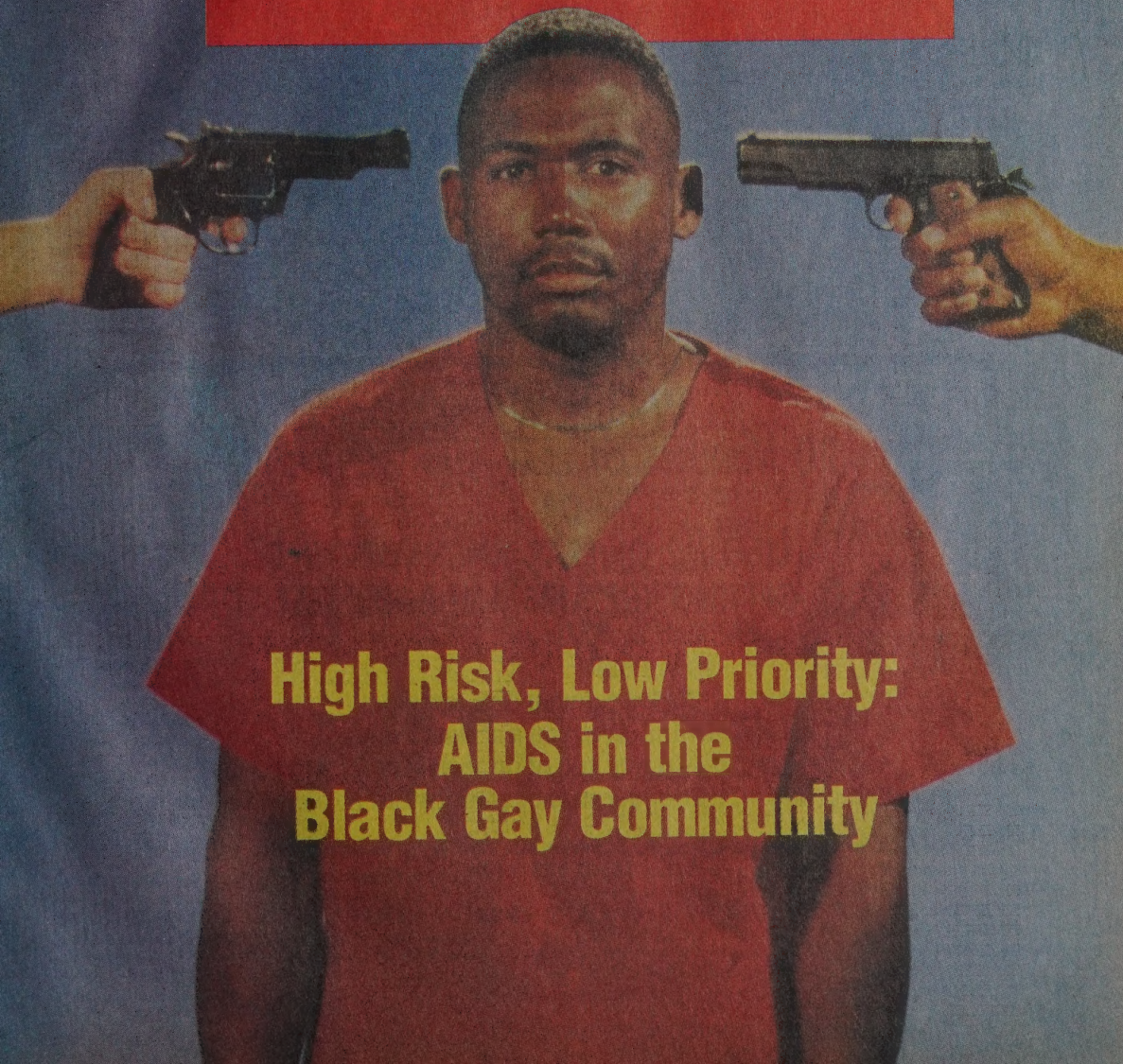
THE NATIONAL BLACK LESBIAN AND GAY NEWSMAGAZINE

BLK

Vol. 3, No. 7
Whole No. 32
July 1991



High Risk, Low Priority: AIDS in the Black Gay Community

WHAT'S WORSE...
20 MINUTES OF FEAR AND WORRYING
OR...
A LIFETIME OF FEAR AND WORRYING?
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WHY?

1. New treatments are possible.
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3. Knowing can also free you of unnecessary fear and doubt.
4. Learning how to take better care of yourself can be a new beginning.

For a free, anonymous test, call the Minority AIDS Project's Anonymous Testing Site at (213) 935-8144

IT ONLY TAKES ABOUT 20 MINUTES

Word Up

News of the Outrageous, the Amusing, the Pathetic and the Unexpected by Leon Miller

Rosa Parks, Assassin

A teacher in North Carolina's Floyd County school system was mistakenly teaching that Rosa Parks assassinated Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1968. Parks, of course, was the woman whose refusal to give up her seat to a white person sparked the Montgomery bus boycott. The superintendent of schools has apologized.

Bimbos Diss BLK with Diarrhea

Bimbox, for those of you not on the cutting edge of radical queer culture, is a 'zine bent on the destruction of lesbian and gay culture to be replaced by "a queers-only world."

Listen up. Are someone's cheeks getting tongued?

Anyway, the white boy bimbos at *Bimbox,* trashed BLK in their issue #4 complaining that BLK wasn't angry or outrageous enough, vomiting that they "wouldn't think twice about throwing eggs" at us.

If their physical capacity matches their mental, we doubt if they can lift eggs, much less throw them. The needle-dicked knuckleheads, who are probably fat and ugly, not only dissed BLK but *Outweek, L.A. Weekly,* Phranc, *Pansy Beat,* and Queer Nation as well, with their xeroxed diarrhea. They need some fierce brothers to go upside their pointy heads and carve their little pink hearts out with a spoon.

The *Bimbox*ers hide in Canada, but if their stoopid nasal selves ever set foot on our turf, we'll fuck 'em up. Check it out. We'll shoot a lighted Roman Candle up the place where dicks should go.

And we'll do it wearing simple black dresses with a single strand of pearls and our moustaches dyed to match the queer flag.

How ya like us now, *Bimbox?*

The LAPD Talks that Talk

The Christopher Commission, which investigated the Los Angeles Police Dept. following the beating of Rodney King, has issued its report, which, among other things, suggests that Chief Daryl Gates should retire.

A supplemental report lists examples of nearly 1,500 offensive messages sent by officers to one another using computer keyboards installed in each squad car.

The messages brought a hush to the hearings, and are credited with convincing even the staunchest police supporters that the abuse was unacceptable.

(The spelling and grammar, by the way, appears as it was in the report.)

"...by the way do you still have that KKK meeting on Friday..."

"I spoke to Sgt [name omitted] who said we did a outstanding job...with those Jamician junebugs."

"My shooting policy is based on nationality and looks."

"I can't believe fish can change sexes in a week."

"Ya...drag queens would be bummed..."

"How's the faggots treating you."

"He didn't like that a nigger was driving a brand new vette."

"I feel like I'm in Africa."

"Monkeys in the trees, monkeys in the trees, hi ho dario moneys in the trees."

"Did your fag have Aids...probably they all do ...jail is the perfect place for him...hes around all those males...boy is he lucky."

These communications, by the way, were *not* private messages. These were sent over channels that are open to all on the police network.

Gay = AIDS and Prostitution

As part of the fallout from the *Tongues Untied* controversy, Jennifer Lawson, Public Broadcasting Service executive vice president for national programming and promotion services, has found herself defending PBS's record on lesbian and gay programming.

According to the June 17 issue of *Electronic Media,* Lawson said, "We do a lot of programs about homosexuality. *Frontline* has done AIDS and male prostitution."

Ahhhh. Now I know what it means to be gay. Not to mention what it means to be lesbian.

More Hateful Rap Lyrics

Effect Records has just released "Nasty Bitch" written by John Blckham, Jr. [*sic*], performed by Bust Down and executive produced by Luther Campbell, the latter of 2 Live Crew fame.

The rap song is about three drug-abusing women a guy has absolutely no use for *except* when he wants to get off.

Among the more memorable lines are:

"...dyke, bull dagger, rock-smoking' dog."

"She laid down, grabbed me by my waist, got freaky, and asked me to piss in her face."

"I farted in her mouth and made her cheeks inflate."

"She went to choking. She couldn't take this dick. But I didn't give a fuck. I tried to kill that bitch."

If you'd like to express your appreciation for the beautiful sentiments so sensitively presented, contact Effect Records, 8400 N.E. 2nd Ave., Miami, Fla. 33138.

Penis Rides in Limousine

For the third annual World AIDS Day, sponsors in Amsterdam featured a man dressed as a giant penis riding in a limousine. He was accosted by a group of nurses, who unrolled a giant condom onto him.

There was no info on what the giant condomed penis then entered.

Why 15 Distribs Nixed 'Paris'

Despite the fact that *Paris Is Burning* received rave reviews and played a record run in New York, at least 15 distributors passed on the film.

Homophobia?

Racism?

No. Music problems.

It seems that director Jennie Livingston technically didn't have permission to use the music heard in the film.

Miramax Films, who finally decided to take the film on, reportedly spent 25 percent of the film's budget obtaining the proper clearances.

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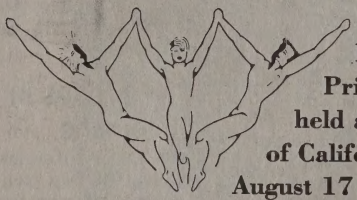
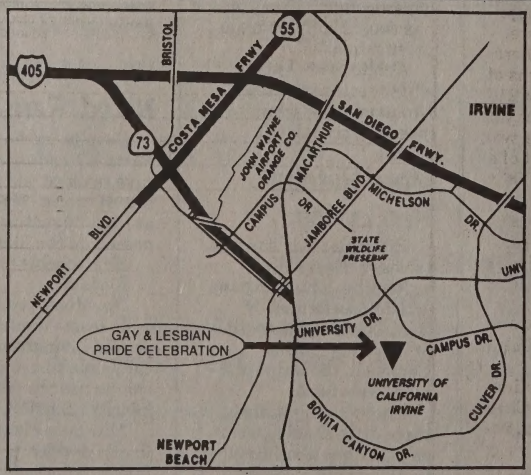


The 1991 Orange County Cultural Pride Gay & Lesbian Pride Celebration will be held at the University of California, Irvine, August 17 & 18.

Free Parade Viewing. • Festival Admission $10.

Volunteer Opportunities Available
For Information, Contact: 714 · 998 · 4498



The OCCP Gay & Lesbian Pride Celebration is held in cooperation with Laguna Outreach, UCIGLSU & UCIFSN.

BLK

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July 1991

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ON THE COVER: Emanuel Tapp. *Fake guns by Stembridge. Photo by Bruce Hunt.*

BLK MAIL

Literate and Intelligent

Dear Editor:

Here's two dollars for your October 1990 issue, the one containing the story of how J. Edgar Hoover planted a bug in Martin Luther King's hotel room and caught that wonderful bit of dialogue. To me it was so deeply moving that even during the heat of their battle, even though their very lives were on the line and their every move subjected to the scrutiny of enemies, these men were so passionate and so hip that they could engage in this loving and peculiarly black rhetorical excess leaving J. Edgar to scratch his head bloody trying to figure out what the fuck they might have meant!

This story might have been published somewhere else, but I can't imagine where I would have seen it if not in BLK. It's for reasons like this that I like your magazine. Although I am neither black nor gay I do make an effort to pick up each issue here in West Hollywood where I live. I find BLK pretty literate and intelligent, and there is always something within its pages that I find interesting and which deepens my understanding of my fellow man.

I realize that BLK is dealing with a complex sensibility which is fully inside the experience of a very small number of people. However it is probably for this very reason that I think it is so valuable. There is often great wisdom, kindness and humanity on the edges of this great, beautiful and cruel America of ours.

Jonathan Gordon
West Hollywood, Calif.

A Major Minor Point

Dear Editor:

A minor point regarding May '91, "Word Up" by Leon Miller in which he refers to International Male. While the main gist of the article holds true, his percentage of photographs depicting black men is off by a factor of some magnitude. I think he may have dropped a decimal somewhere.

One percent of 216 images is a tad more than two. Therefore, it's impossible for 13 of 216 images to be "six tenths of one percent" (.6 of 1 percent) as he states. In fact, 13 of 216 images is actually a bit over 6 percent. While it may not yet be good enough, there's a huge difference between the two figures. Think of it as the difference between 6 percent of a ton (120 lbs) falling on you or 6/10 of 1/100 of a ton (.006 x 2000 lbs) (12 lbs).

Things are bad enough, let's not make them any worse.

Changing subjects totally, I'd like to note that Rex Wockner's article, "No Peace," in the April '91 issue is probably one of the most informative—and maybe terrifying—articles I've read in any gay paper.

Frank Mosca
Montclair, Calif.

If you wish to have a letter considered for publication, address it to BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, California 90083-0912. You may also send letters by fax, 24-hours, seven days a week: 213-410-9250. Keep your letter brief, and be sure to include your full name, address and telephone number for verification. Names will be withheld from publication on request. Letters may be edited for purposes of space or clarity.

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High Risk, Low Priority

Society Turns a Double Blind Eye on AIDS in the black gay community

By Michael Broder

While the black gay community may be at the highest risk for AIDS of any group in the nation, it is certainly among the poorest served with AIDS education, prevention, health care and other kinds of support. In pharmaceutical research, "double blind" refers to a placebo-controlled clinical trial in which neither the researcher nor the participant knows whether the patient is receiving the experimental drug or a placebo. The "double blind" of this article's title refers to the twofold invisibility that black gay people face in this society, the invisibility of color, and the invisibility of sexuality. And invisibility, like silence, can equal death, especially in the context of the AIDS epidemic.

OVERVIEW

But while racism and homophobia contribute to the risk of contracting HIV and developing AIDS, the layers of invisibility are really many more than just two. Black lesbians are hidden behind the additional veil of gender. People suffering from drug addiction are further removed from the public consciousness, because of society's desire to avoid and deny the scope of the nation's drug problem. If you are homeless, with no address, you are literally nowhere. And our nation's prisons confine too many black men and women to the forgotten margins of society. But the shooting galleries, and the streets, and the prisons, and the bodies of black women and men are the places where HIV and AIDS are burying their widest, deepest, most insidious roots.

While posters in trains, buses, and magazines—paid for by Burroughs Wellcome out of AZT profits—assure millions of Americans that "Every day, more and more people are learning to live with HIV," it is too easy to forget that thousands are still dying, and that thousands more will become infected and sick in the coming years. Over 175,000 cases of AIDS have been reported in the United States. Over 107,000 people have died, and that number is expected to more than double in just the next two years. An estimated 1.5 million Americans are now infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. More and more, the infected, sick, and dead will be found in communities of color, where racism, economic discrimination, and a burgeoning health care crisis yield an ever-riper breeding ground for AIDS.

AIDS Epidemiology Shifts to the Black Community. About 29 percent of all AIDS cases in the United States have been among African Americans (all national statistics in this section reflect cases reported through April 1991). That is a staggering figure, especially when blacks make up only about 12 percent of the population. Moreover, that 29 percent covers ten years of an epidemic that emerged in this country largely among gay white men. Looking at the statistics over time, one finds that an ever greater proportion of AIDS cases are found among African-American men, women, and children as the epidemic progresses.

In New York City, for example—the American city with the highest incidence of AIDS—by the middle of 1982 the number of cases diagnosed among black women exceeded the number diagnosed among white women. By January of 1990 case for black women stood at about 480 cases per year, as compared to about 340 cases for Latina women, and about 120 cases for white women. Among men, the number of cases diagnosed among blacks exceeded the number diagnosed among Latinos by the beginning of 1982, and finally exceeded the number diagnosed among whites by the beginning of 1990, running at about 1500 cases per year. Similar trends can be expected in other large urban centers.

Intravenous (IV) drug use is clearly the single most important factor in this shift in AIDS epidemiology from whites to people of color. While only eight percent of AIDS cases reported among whites of both genders attribute IV drug use as the HIV exposure category, 39 percent of AIDS cases among blacks fall into this category, as do 40 percent among Latinos.

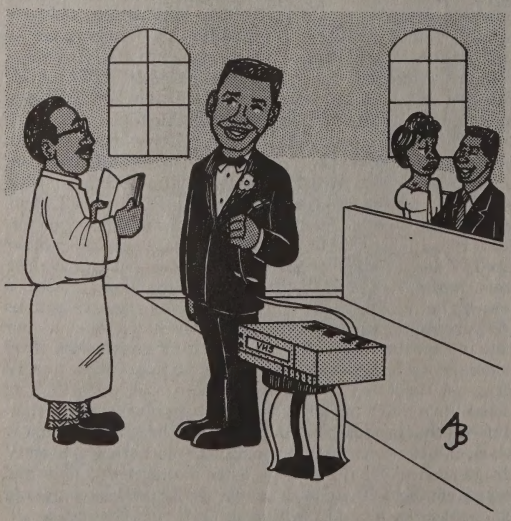
For women of all racial and ethnic groups except Asians and Pacific Islanders, exposure to HIV through IV drug use is significantly more prevalent than exposure through heterosexual contact. Fifty-six percent of AIDS cases reported among black women attribute IV drug use as the exposure category, as opposed to 33 percent exposed through heterosexual contact. Among Latina women, the numbers are 50 percent for IV drug use, versus 38 percent for heterosexual contact. Of course, many women exposed to HIV through heterosexual contact are the partners of male IV drug users, so their infection is ultimately attributable to IV drug use as well. This is the case for 62 percent of all women with AIDS, 60 percent of black women, and 80 percent of Latina women.

Of children less than 13 years old with AIDS nationwide —3,028 in total—1,589 were black, while 762 were Latino, and 647 were white. For all groups, the overwhelming majority of infections occurred *in utero*, either because the mother used IV drugs herself or had sexual contact with an IV drug user. Again, however, the percentage of *in utero* infections was higher among blacks (92 percent) than among Latinos (86 percent), or whites (61 percent), who had a much higher rate of exposure through receipt of blood transfusion, blood components, or tissue. Moreover, the numbers show that IV drug use itself—as opposed to sexual contact with IV drug users—is a much bigger problem among black women than among other groups. That is, more than three times as many black children with AIDS were born to mothers who used IV drugs themselves (724 cases) as to mothers who only had sexual contact with an IV drug user (232 cases), as compared to about twice as many white children, and one-and-a-half times as many Latino children who fell into this category.

But again, AIDS itself is actually only one factor in the AIDS epidemic. There are other epidemics at work here: racism, sexism, homophobia, poverty (as well as poverty's roots in social and economic discrimination), drug abuse and homelessness (as well as their stigmatization). And perhaps the most pernicious epidemic, the one that feeds the others most, is the lack of political leadership and political will, in cities, states, Congress and the White House. And it's not too controversial a proposition to state that some communities are hit harder than others, by both AIDS and its concomitant epidemics. "Certainly the African-American community has a pretty full plate," says Reggie Williams, executive director of the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention of the National Association of Black and White Men Together in San Francisco.

Let The Reader Beware. One important factor—a caveat, if you will—must be presented before proceeding. While the author set out to do a piece on AIDS in the black gay and lesbian community, he must admit that the article focuses almost exclusively on black gay men. This slant arose largely from the method of research, which was to conduct interviews with black AIDS activists and advocates. While few of the organizations I contacted had the word "men" in their names (some did), virtually all turned out to be organizations focused on providing education, prevention, and advocacy services to black gay men (or to gay men of color at large). Consequently, that's whom I heard most about, and whom I ultimately wrote most about. I know the story of black lesbians dealing with AIDS is out there, but I couldn't get at it for inclusion in the current piece. Maybe next time. In fact, if you deal with AIDS in the black lesbian community, write and tell me about it. I need all the help I can get.

Prevention and Education Versus Care and Treatment? How do we overcome an epidemic? Be it AIDS, drugs, poverty, homelessness, or any other condition, there are generally two paths: prevention and education on the one hand, care and treatment on the other. Combining the two approaches is the ideal: preventing poverty, for example, through teaching job skills and creating expanded employment opportunities, while providing those who are already poor with financial assistance and social services.



"He's into extremely safe sex."

But while a dual approach seems most sensible, it turns out to be more controversial than you might think. Both approaches involve spending public funds on programs and services that taxpayers often believe do not benefit them, to solve problems that they believe do not affect them. Under these circumstances, prevention and education often seems the lesser evil, because it is more palatable to preserve the innocent than to assist the guilty. And in our society, "guilty" is how we consider and treat people with AIDS, drug addicts, the unemployed, the homeless, the mentally ill, and others in detrimental circumstances.

Care and treatment is often harder to gain support for. People would rather pay for "Just Say No" ads to keep kids off drugs in the first place (someone else's kids, of course—mine would never do such a thing), than pay for detoxes, rehabs, supportive housing, child care, job training, and the full array of medical, mental health, and social services that could get and keep addicts off drugs.

But while the public may be quicker to support education and prevention than care and treatment, they often would sooner forego both, in favor of punishment. Sometimes they call it deterrence: Just throw the druggies in prison; they don't belong out on the streets, and locking them up will send a clear message. Sometimes punishment takes the form of malignant neglect: Teenage mothers? Let the fathers support the kids. Unemployed? Let him get a job, like everyone else. Homeless? Let 'em freeze, that'll teach 'em to loiter in public parks. AIDS? Let them drop dead. They only got what they deserved.

So, on the public policy side, we generally approach social crises in the following order of preference: eagerly punish the afflicted, through malignant neglect or outright retaliation; charitably offer prevention and education to those at risk, in hopes of reaching them before they "go bad"; grudgingly provide care and treatment for as few as possible, to demonstrate the boundless compassion of our great democracy.

That is the case, of course, only as long as politicians and bureaucrats are left in charge of policy. What is unique about the AIDS epidemic—and what is perhaps at the same time its darkest tragedy and its brightest hope—is the fact that politicians and bureaucrats have never wanted anything to do with it. From the very beginning, every inch of territory in the effort to conquer AIDS has been won—or lost—by what has come to be called "the AIDS community." And again, unique among social crises, the AIDS community—the people leading the fight—have been those directly affected by the disease: people with AIDS, and later people with HIV, as well as those at risk, their lovers, friends, and families.

But the AIDS community has conflicts of its own, and the strategy and tactics of the fight against this epidemic are as riddled with controversies for AIDS activists and advocates as they are for politicians and bureaucrats, albeit controversies of a different sort. And yet some things are constant, for while the policies of punishment and malignant neglect are of course not on the table, the debate about prevention versus treatment rages on within the AIDS community itself.

It is a painful debate, because nobody in the AIDS community wants to see either side of the equation neglected. But in a world of scarce resources—both human and financial—choices must be made. In order to understand the factors influencing the choices that face the black gay community as it confronts AIDS, one must consider the community itself, its experience with AIDS, and the broader social context over the past decade.

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The Education Gap. Black gay men are—as a group—less educated than white gay men about HIV and AIDS. "I am not satisfied that black gay men have had the kind of emersion in AIDS education they need to prevent themselves from becoming infected with HIV," says Dr. Frank Oldham, Jr., director of the Office of Gay and Lesbian Health Concerns in the New York City Department of Health. Says Oldham, "There are still myths around that are very, very dangerous." Thus, according to Oldham and many other black gay AIDS activists across the nation, the most pressing need is for more outreach, and more education, particularly in condom use and low risk sexual behaviors.

But it is a matter of attitudes, not just of raw information. Oldham points out that there is often little peer pressure among black gay men to practice safer sex, and that high-risk sex is easily available to men cruising in black and Latino bars. In a survey conducted by the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention last year, they found that many more men knew about risk behaviors for contracting HIV than consistently used condoms. Men must learn to "translate knowledge into actual practice," says Ronald Johnson, executive director of the Minority Task Force on AIDS in New York. They need programs to increase and build their skills in negotiating the issue of safer-sex when meeting men and approaching sexual situations.

Caring About Our Lives. Low self-esteem and lack of empowerment around the issue of being gay pose the most serious obstacles to the development of a safer-sex consciousness among black gay men. Says Oldham, "You have to love yourself enough, and love your life enough, to do this" (i.e. practice safer sex). "How much do you care about your life," Oldham asks, "if you are unemployed or underemployed, have no housing or sub-standard housing, have been involved with substance abuse because you have a real need to escape a very painful existence, and you have suffered from racism?" If sex is your only release from these stresses, says Oldham, "there is great resistance to putting a condom on that."

Moreover, black gay men face barriers in seeking and obtaining the support of their peers. Even for those who consider themselves gay, that consciousness may be a matter of private identity only, not public identity. Many black gay men, says the Minority Task Force's Ronald Johnson, "won't go to a public gay event, lest their cover be exposed." Black gay men have lacked opportunities to meet with their peers, share experiences and feelings, work to overcome internalized homophobia, and develop self-love and a positive self-image.

One person who has sought to address this problem is Phill Wilson, now the AIDS coordinator for the City of Los Angeles. In 1986, Wilson developed a program called the Hot, Horny and Healthy Playshop as a project of the Los Angeles chapter of Black and White Men Together. As Wilson explains, his interest in developing the program arose after the HIV antibody test became available in 1985. At that time, Wilson recalls, safer-sex messages proliferated, but the messages were very negative, emphasizing the kinds of sex men could no longer have safely.

Wilson says that these messages were inadequate for all gay men, but particularly for black gay men, already burdened with a heavy load of negative messages about their sexuality, and lacking the communal affirmation of gay sexuality that had accompanied the mostly-white gay liberation movement of the seventies. Wilson wanted a program that dealt with safer sex and empowerment at the same time. He describes the prevailing approach to HIV in the white gay community as a "steppingstone model" with four distinct steps: information, education, prevention, and intervention. It took five years to develop that model, Wilson says, adding, "We really didn't have five years to duplicate the model in black gay communities."

The result was the Hot, Horny and Health Playshop. While eroticizing safer sex is perhaps the most immediate goal of the program and its chief draw, it also seeks to convey basic "AIDS 101" information, and to lead men towards personal choices and empowerment based on a sense of self-worth. The program encourages black gay men to embrace their sexuality, and to embrace sex. The essential messages: "I don't deserve to get AIDS. My life is worth protecting."

The three-hour program was initially presented to small groups in peoples homes, then moved into meetings of gay community organizations. When Wilson came to work for Reggie Williams at the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention, Hot, Horny and Health really took off. On a kind of world concert tour, Phil Wilson personally presented the playshop to some 2000 to 3000 gay men throughout the United States, England, Germany, and Australia. "I think the most important thing about Hot, Horny and Healthy," says Wilson, "is that it provided a venue for black gay men to talk about sex and AIDS." Hot, Horny and Healthy Playshops are now conducted regularly by many black gay AIDS organizations around the country. The San Francisco-based Bay Area HIV Support and Education Services (BAHSES) has incorporated Hot, Horny and Healthy Playshops into other kinds of prevention and education settings, like peer support groups and bar interventions.

Bar intervention programs are in place in many locales, whether using the Hot, Horny and Healthy model or other approaches. In New York City, the Men of Color AIDS (MOCA) Prevention Program does safer-sex training at

"Welcome to Trans Minority Airlines. Your captain today is Louise Sanchez, a transsexual. Your co-captain is Dewanda Johnson, a queer African-American. And serving you in the forward and aft cabins will be a cadre of congenial lesbians and gay men. If any one has a problem with that...get over it."

Keller's, right across the street from the infamous piers where the West Village meets the Hudson River. In Philadelphia, an exotic dancer named Magic makes a show of condoms and safer-sex information at B.J.P.'s, on 53rd and Market, and The Nile on 13th and Locust. In Washington, D.C., the Inner City AIDS Network (ICAN) goes to The Brass Rail, The Back Door Pub, and the social club Encore. In Los Angeles, the Minority AIDS Project travels to the Horizon and Jewel's Catch One. In the San Francisco bay area, BAHSES takes the safer-sex message to The Cable's Reef in Oakland, and the Black Coalition on AIDS hits the bath houses—The Steam Works in Berkeley, and the Water Gardens in San Jose.

Many of these organizations also bring condoms and safer-sex information to sex clubs, parks, bus and train stations, anywhere that black gay men can be found seeking or having sex. This outreach effort is crucial, says ICAN administrator Alexander Robinson, because black men who do not openly identify as gay or bisexual are hard to reach in bars and other traditional gathering spots of the gay community. "You have to go to the places where the community frequents," says BAHSES program director Kevin Brooks. "The more they see you, the more trust they will have in you." Honesty, as well as consistency, is critical in building trust. "You have to be straight up with the community," says Brooks. "You can't lie. You will lose your credibility."

Longer-term workshops and peer support groups are also part of the AIDS education and prevention strategy being implemented by activists in black gay communities nationwide. ICAN in Washington, D.C. currently has six support groups in progress, each with 10-15 HIV-positive men. ICAN administrator Alexander Robinson reports that the first group, which began last August, is still meeting a year later. "We are still living, and we still have something to offer life," is how program director Kevin Brooks describes the theme of the BAHSES HIV support groups in San Francisco.

Primary Health Care Crisis. "Everybody is of the mind set that prevention and education are going to save us, and they're wrong," says Keith Cylar, a longtime AIDS activist who is now the director of Housing and Services at Housing Works, a fledgling community-based organization providing advocacy, housing, and case-management services to homeless people with AIDS and HIV in New York City. While much of the AIDS community considers prevention and education to be the first priority in communities of color, Cylar's emphasis is on such issues as primary health, drug treatment, mental health, and housing. If these needs are not met, Cylar argues, all the education efforts in the world will not get people of color to practice safer sex consistently and effectively.

Because of a variety of social and economic factors, much of the black community lacks adequate primary health care. "We have the best health care system in the world," says Bart Casimir of San Francisco's Black Coalition on AIDS, "but the accessibility is not there." There is often an inadequate supply of private doctors in black communities, and the cost of private health care is often prohibitive. According to figures released by the Census Bureau, 30.7 percent of black people nationwide were living below the poverty level in 1989, while 20 percent lacked any health insurance in the fourth quarter of 1988.

Among people who can afford private health care, and especially in cities with large white gay male populations, an extensive network of medical doctors and alternative health care practitioners has developed, with experience, knowledge, and interest in dealing with HIV and AIDS. As Ronald Johnson points out, long-term survivors of AIDS are not only primarily white, but also—and perhaps more importantly—primarily middle class. Says Johnson, "Too often, the racial and ethnic issues mask what are really class issues."

While more affluent whites do not have a "magic bullet" against AIDS that impoverished people of color lack, they often have access to a wider range of effective options in dealing with HIV. When they get seriously ill, people without private primary care physicians must resort to hospital emergency rooms. Gay people may find attending physicians who are sensitive neither to issues of color nor of gay sexuality, and whose knowledge of AIDS is limited. "African-Americans and people of color need to have a variety of services to choose from," says Curtis Wadlington, executive assistant at Blacks Educating Blacks about Sexual Health Issues (BEBASHI) in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. If they are not comfortable with the "mainstream" service providers, they will simply forego services altogether. A lack of options, Wadlington says, "forces people to stay at home and die."

Denial and stigmatization around AIDS within communities of color pose further barriers to obtaining sensitive and appropriate health care. "So much of our community doesn't want to deal with AIDS," says Ronald Johnson of New York's Minority Task Force. Kevin Brooks, of San Francisco's BAHSES, adds, "The black community is still not identifying [with the AIDS epidemic]. They don't see themselves in it." Too many members of the black community still see AIDS as a white man's disease. This is a function of denial about black homosexuality: being gay in the black community is okay, as long is it's kept quiet. Consequently, says Brooks, "Black men are not coming out."

We sometimes forget that "Silence = Death" is no metaphor. Many black gay men deny AIDS symptoms when they have them. They put off attending to their health needs because of the fear of rejection by family, friends, and community. They may fear going to the family doctor—if there is one—both because they do not want to reveal the secret of their sexuality, and because they doubt the doctor will know very much about AIDS. Thus, they often seek care very late in the course of the disease. "The black man is not getting out there early enough," says BAHSES's Kevin Brooks.

The Culture Gap. Early in the epidemic, organizations like Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) in New York, and Shanti and the AIDS Foundation in San Francisco, created a model and set a standard for linking people with AIDS to appropriate health and social services. But these agencies were founded primarily by middle-class white gay men, to deal with an epidemic that had emerged in their own community. In the face of a spreading epidemic and continued government apathy, the existing advocacy groups were hard pressed to meet the needs of the women, children, and people of color who were developing AIDS in increasing numbers. In particular, they were not equipped to deal with substance abuse, a problem that exacerbates the AIDS epidemic, and that hits black and Latino communities hardest.

Reggie Williams, executive director of the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention in San Francisco, cites the culture gap as a reason why early prevention and education efforts where unsuccessful in the black gay community. Brochures and public service announcements, he says, did not show black gay faces in the early years of the epidemic. When white gay AIDS organizations tried to create programs for black people, says BAHSES's Kevin Brooks, they were set up to fail, because they often either entrusted the program to a white director, or imported a black director from another community. Either way, the result was inappropriate pro-

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graming, insensitive to the needs and realities of the local black gay community.

According to the Minority Task Force's Ronald Johnson, who is a former member of GMHC's board of directors, the situation has improved at GMHC and other AIDS organizations originating in the white community. They have recruited more people of color as employees and as board members, as well as broadening the population base of the people they serve. But AIDS activists in communities of color must continue educating organizations about discrimination in their own ranks and in service provision. "This society is still programed to be a monocultural society," says Bart Casimir of San Francisco's Black Coalition on AIDS.

Too address this problem in San Francisco, the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention has initiated its Early Advocacy and Care for HIV (EACH) program. EACH is essentially an information and referral service with a difference, and the difference is difference itself. "We are not monolithic," says Task Force director Reggie Williams. A Gay Men of Color Consortium heads up the EACH program, with individual treatment advocates serving the African-American, Latino, Asian and Pacific Islander, and Native American communities. There is also a treatment advocate for indigent white gay men, reflecting the understanding that class and wealth, as much as race or ethnicity, form the dividing lines between those who get adequate health care and those who do not.

The EACH treatment advocates address options like medical intervention, clinical trials, alternative treatments, holistic health care, and Chinese herbs. Williams says that the EACH approach is not based on offering communities of color what has worked for other people, but in helping people decide what works for *them*. "Early intervention should be based out of a cultural perspective that the individual can feel comfortable with," says Williams.

Leadership Vacuum in Community and Government. Beyond education, prevention, and primary health care, the AIDS community must deal with people's need for a whole range of support services, like food, clothing, shelter, child care, transportation, counseling, employment, and legal services to deal with everything from AIDS-related discrimination to the sluggish and intransigent public entitlements bureaucracy. Helping people in crisis define their needs and get them met—by accessing the full range of personal, private, and public resources available—is called "case management," and while virtually everyone acknowledges that community-based organizations are the best vehicles for providing this vital service, not everyone is willing to commit the resources necessary to meet the need.

"Community-based organizations who are providing AIDS services are desperately overworked," says Keith Cylar of New York's Housing Works. "The need outstrips the organizations' capacity to function." Other AIDS advocates agree that funding remains a serious problem. Even in these days of increased government recognition that HIV services must be provided for underserved communities, bureaucrats prefer to fund the larger, more established organizations to create new programing, rather than fund newer organizations based in communities of color. The same can be said of private foundations. Funders may argue that this is not racism, but rather a bias in favor of experience and expertise. But this "bang for the buck" logic often masks much more highly political and ideological issues.

Whatever the rationale, the reality is a crippling blow to AIDS organizations serving the black community. "If we just had enough money, I think it would be a tremendous improvement," says Bart Casimir of San Francisco's Black Coalition on AIDS. "We have to fight for funding every year." In Washington, D.C., ICAN's Alexander Robinson says that while more than 70 percent of the city is African-American, this is not reflected in local funding priorities. Nor is there an adequate effort on the part of the city to reach black gay men, who make up about 60 percent of the city's HIV-positive population. Instead, programs and services are generally geared either towards black women and children, or white gay men. Moreover, Robinson says that there are a number of black organizations that are essentially gay, but extreme homophobia prevents them from admitting it, or from targeting services to the black gay community.

The focus of public health agencies on AIDS in black heterosexual women and children, to the neglect of black gay men and lesbians, is generally supported by the mainstream black community. Says Gregory Broyles of New York's Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, women and children are "more palatable issues," and will always be the community's priority. "I would like to see our institutions be more responsive" says Broyles, who directs a recently initiated outreach program targeting black gay men. In an organization sometimes faulted for a conservative, heterosexist, and ecclesiastical bent, Broyles is a relatively outspoken gay voice. He laments the fact that not enough black gay men are willing to come out as spokespeople for the community, and that the black community at large has yet to sufficiently own its gay component. "We are the ones who are ultimately responsible for our own community," says Broyles. "Until we do something about it, our people with continue to die."

Nor is government likely to run with a ball that the community itself has failed to pick up. "Going into the second decade of AIDS, we have still not developed a bureaucratic infrastructure" to deal with the crisis, says Ronald Johnson of New York's Minority Task Force on AIDS. Neither on the federal, state, or local level have governments implemented an effective mechanism for delivering health care and social services, nor a strategy for developing effective medical interventions. "The research agenda has got to be refocused and rethought," says Johnson. Clinical trials should include more people of color and women. Research should extend beyond antivirals to other therapies and approaches. It is crucial to get the federal Centers for Disease Control to broaden the definition of AIDS so that it recognizes the opportunistic infections commonly appearing in women, a task which Johnson characterizes as "jousting with a windmill."

"There are blinders on the scientific mind," says Keith Cylar of New York's Housing Works. "That is a manifestation of racism." Cylar believes that the medical establishment must focus on the unique pathology of HIV in people of color. We have no idea how AIDS drugs work in men of color, in IV drug users, in women. "I am terrified that we are going to find a cure for AIDS," says Cylar, "and it won't work in people of color." Or, he says, that a cure will be found, and people of color won't have access to it, because of inadequate health facilities, medical insurance, or the whole range of infrastructure problems that block access to health. The recent Veterans Administration study of AZT, which essentially claimed that the drug doesn't work in blacks and Latinos, highlights the importance of studying how drugs work—and how AIDS manifests differently—in different populations. "The government is ignoring that," says Cylar.

The problems facing black gay men and lesbians—racism, enforced poverty, the drug culture, violent and pervasive homophobia—are not new, but they pose new and more threatening dangers in the age of AIDS. Now more than ever, the right to care about one's own life, and the means to care for one's own health, safety, and welfare, must be secured, or the poverty of a community's privilege will continue to be reflected in the obscene overabundance of its deaths.

Pride and Prejudice

African-Amerian Lesbians and Gay Men Celebrate Coast to Coast

By Mark Haile and Eric Washington

It was a colorful Lesbian and Gay Pride Month, with coast-to-coast pageantry and controversy. Well over a million lesbians, gay men and their supporters marched, paraded or otherwise celebrated, while more than a dozen cities in the United States had their first observance of lesbian and gay pride; other ongoing events experienced their most voluminous and vociferous numbers of people of color ever.

In some cities, inclusion of African-Americans came much more smoothly than in years past, while in other parts of the country, white gay men repeated the same oppressive, exclusive patterns of their heterosexual counterparts.

NEWS FEATURE

For each of the major parades, the significant image for lesbian and gay African-Americans to take home was the visibility offered, regardless of the level of lobbying, arguing, fundraising or negotiating that went on all year long to make it so.

Here are but a few of the efforts and results to put black lesbians and gay men in the pride celebrations across America.

NEW YORK. "I'm going to miss *Outweek,*" confessed Jennie Livingston. filmmaker of *Paris Is Burning* addressing the 17,000 lesbians and gay men gathered in Union Square for the 22nd annual New York City lesbian and gay pride festivities. "Because, through *Outweek,* we all had a voice. And I'll certainly miss Thurgood Marshall."

The seemingly incongruous retirements of *Outweek* magazine and Thurgood Marshall were but a sampling of the myriad and disparate topics on the minds and lips of those who had made their way to New York for pride weekend. For five hours lesbian and gay pilgrims convened, reunited, spritzed, hugged, kissed, canvassed, hawked journals and T-shirts and badges and flyers and party invites, noshed, and listened with inconstant attentiveness to the broadcast of voices under a relentless Saturday afternoon sun. Heritage of Pride (HOP), organizers of the rally, parade and dance on the Christopher St. pier, assembled a diverse roster of speakers and entertainers under this year's themes, "Out, Loud and Proud" and "Here Without Fear."

"We will not go back from here," said Sandra J. Lowe, a staff attorney for Lambda Legal Defense in a keynote address. "We will not go back ten years, we will not go back one year. We are going forward!... We will keep the hope in the Constitution alive in this country!"

Sgt. Perry Watkins, who successfully appealed the U.S. Supreme Court for his 1984 discharge from the Army for being homosexual, appeared in full military uniform on Saturday before a crowd that was largely comprised of vehement opponents to the recent gulf war amidst the thunder of cheers.

Of the musical and comedy acts that made an impression were the interracial male *a cappella* group the Flirtations and the lesbian reggae duo Casselberry-Dupree. They made mention of their effort to have signers of color for the deaf and hearing impaired brought to the stage. "Another one of many things that are on the back burner that we have to keep talking about it and put it on the front burner." Thelma Houston sang her hit, "Don't Leave Me This Way" and Crystal Waters, whose "Gypsy Woman (She's Homeless)" is making her an almost instantaneous star. Waters introduced a new song about AIDS, called "Small Cry," from her newly released debut album.

Falling into ranks behind the parade's Grand Marshals Deborah Glick, the first open lesbian to be elected to the New York State Legislature, and performer and AIDS-activist Michael Callen, were hundreds of groups ranging from the purely social, like the Sirens Motorcycle Club, to the political, like Queer Nation. The Grand Marshals were inadvertently overshadowed for much of the route by Phil Donahue and Marlo Thomas, who filed in behind them and garnered most of the crowd's attention.

Black lesbians and gay men were more conspicuous as parade participants than as onlookers. While being represented in varying degrees in practically all of the most notable groups such as ACT-UP, Queer Nation and Gay Men's Health Crisis, blacks dominated many of the other contingents such as Other Countries Black Gay Writers, Lavender Light Gospel Choir, African American Wimmin United for Social Change, National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays, Gay Men of African Descent (GMAD) and Men of All Colors Together (MACT).

"Shame, shame, shame," the familiar cry rehearsed by ACT-UP groups from several states and their supporters, was chanted as they approached St. Patrick's Cathedral, seat of John Cardinal O'Connor. Facing the cathedral across Fifth Ave. on 50th St., corralled away from the marchers, was the patch of born again Christians who come to denounce the marchers every year. "Got AIDS Yet?" read one sign that was typical of the vitriolic messages that were scrawled on poster boards and waved at the marchers. One marcher saw fit to dismiss the group, who numbered only about a dozen this year, by showering them with a fistful of glitter.

At 2:30 p.m., the entire five mile stretch of marchers between Columbus Circle and Greenwich Village came to a halt. In a moment of silence for the hundreds of thousands who have died of AIDS, many bowed their heads, or wept. Many held clenched fists aloft, several clutching pink ribbons with the words "We Remember" printed upon them, followed by an inscribed name of a lost friend or relative.

The march route was hit for about 15 minutes halfway through by a heavy downpour, for some a relief from the

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day's heat and humidity. Cheers heard by one lesbian contingent during the brief storm: "We're here, we're queer, we're wet!" The rain passed, leaving behind a bright sky and a cool, breezy afternoon.

The day's final highlight was the Dance on the Pier, which attracted about 9,000 to disco under the stars. Nona Hendryx was the featured entertainer, backdropped by the Empire State Building whose tower was illuminated by lavender spotlights throughout the weekend for Gay Pride. After Hendryx performed the evening was capped off by fireworks over the Hudson River.

Oakland/San Francisco. San Francisco, host of the nation's pre-eminent—even if not always the largest—pride celebration, enjoyed unseasonably hot weather for the 1991 Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade and celebration June 30.

The city's largest parade, with estimates ranging at about a third of a million participants, reaped the benefits of the cooperation of local activists at long last with other organizers throughout California which meant that many lesbians and gay men throughout the state were able to attend their own local celebrations and San Francisco's as well.

Saturday night before the parade saw a quarter of a million people crammed into eight blocks of the Castro-Upper Market areas for the first-ever "Pink Party" street festival. Proceeds from the event are to be split among lesbian, gay and AIDS service organizations in the Bay Area, including the Gay Men of Color AIDS consortium.

Organizers of the Pink Party have been arguing among themselves and in public, putting a cloud over the prospects of rapid dispersal of profits, and even threatening the annual Halloween celebration in the Castro. San Francisco activist Joe Van Es-Ballesteros complained, "we had to fight Ken Bunch (of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Inc.) every inch of the way in order to include organizations serving communities of color and women as beneficiaries of the event," referring to the past history of the organizers. Bunch is better known by his moniker "Sister Power-Hungry Bitch" when he goes about in drag.

While much smaller, the East Bay celebration of Unity on Saturday night was much more colorful. "The Night Before" was an evening of entertainment, performance art and dance that will benefit the February, 1992 National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference in Oakland.

The Unity contingent, leading the San Francisco parade, brought together the varied African-American Lesbian and Gay groups from throughout the Bay area in a dramatic show of numbers for the second year in a row.

The theme, "Hand in Hand Together" was exemplified by "Hot Colors," the coordinated effort among people of color organizations.

Hot Colors, which represents some 24 organizations that participate in Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day, had made charges that the parade committee made both racist comments and decisions concerning the participation of people of color.

The controversy had begun on April 21, when a planning meeting for the people of color's involvement in the parade received word that the annual benefit held the last three years to ensure participation would not take place.

Parade co-chair Edward Goehring, while attending the meeting, promised to ask the full board of directors to then drop the marching fees for the organizations.

Goehring did, in fact, present the request for fee waivers at a May 20 meeting, but did not succeed in the attempt. A compromise was reached finally on June 3, whereby Hot Colors would pay a $25 fee for each member group, which was reluctantly accepted by the groups out of fear of being left out of the parade altogether.

Goehring, at odds with co-chair Linda Lopez to the point that the two were constantly locked in battle, released a memo just four days before the parade, accusing the board with having made racist comments. By the time the parade had begun, at least one lawsuit was filed by board members against the co-chair, and at least three board members were ready to resign.

Most of the last minute chaos among the parade organizers was unknown to the hundreds of thousands of participants outside of the Hot Colors groups, but controversy is more often present from year to year for parade organizers than sunshine.

The bickering among the parade committee left members of Hot Colors bitter, annoyed and frustrated at their participation being belittled into the pawn in a political chess game of the all-white board.

Los Angeles. The Los Angeles Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade brought out not only record numbers of participants and onlookers, but a record amount of attention from the mainstream media as well.

An accurate representation of the ethnic diversity of Southern California has been a hot issue in the community for many years, as many people of color would stay away on the assumption that the parade "wasn't for them."

Unified contingents of people of color, such as the Gay Asian-Pacific Consortium made up of members of the Gay Asian-Pacific Support Network, Barangay and Asian-Pacific Lesbians and Gays; and organizations which had an overwhelming presence, as did the Minority AIDS Project's float and marchers; helped dispel that myth.

Members of the Unity Fellowship Church, the staff of the Minority AIDS Project, volunteers and people with AIDS made a dramatic impact for the 360,000 onlookers.

Heartening too, was the increased visibility of women of color in the parade, as exemplified by an ebullient group from the United Lesbians of African Heritage proudly lifting signs behind their bright purple and black banner like "Blatant Black Lesbians" and "Black Women Loving Women!"

Volunteers from a number of Los Angeles organizations, including the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, made a visible impact not just at the parade, but at the festival as well. In addition to staffing their own booth, members of the Forum staffed critical posts with Christopher Street West, selling and collecting tickets to the festival.

The African-American Gay and Lesbian Cultural Alliance booth was fortuitously next door to the newly formed Gay and Lesbian Arab organization in Los Angeles, which allowed for a cultural exchange and dialogue that lasted through the entire festival.

The Los Angeles festival, with its $10 admission for each day, is the most expensive celebration of its kind in the country. The cost to enter the festival had risen because of the uncertainty of insurance and other costs to mount the celebration. In response to pressure from community groups concerned over accessibility and elitism, the Christopher Street West board members began giving the profits back to the community in the form of grants to non-profit organizations.

Baltimore. Baltimore's lesbian and gay pride celebration became lively after its pride guide became the center of controversy, when it was pointed out to contain almost exclusively images of white males. The racism and sexism in the

publication resulted in a letter of protest to the pride committee, made up solely of gay white men, from the directors of the William Wolfe Institute, the educational component of the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Baltimore.

The issue dominated a June 4th board meeting, and will be an issue for the board's retreat in August as well.

While diversity and inclusivity were present among the participants to the parade and festival, the board admitted that in recruiting, "Most of us when putting together a volunteer committee ask our friends."

The William Wolf Institute letter noted that of the paid advertising in the pride guide, there was only one African-American business person, and no black bars were listed. In the 23 pictures in the guide, the photos show 20 white men, two black women, and one white women. Baltimore is almost 60 percent black. The inside back cover, they also noted, was a full page advertisement of a mayoral candidate with "a blatantly racist" campaign platform. "No committee, event, program or activity of the center should ever be composed of all white men" the institute stated, suggesting the GLGCB leadership publicly adopt a policy of anti-racism and anti-sexism, and that policies be enacted to ensure the center never represents itself to the public as a racist, sexist, institution.

GLCLB president Mardie Walker addressed the issue in an open letter saying, "As to the pride committee's composition, frankly, I'm pleased that white men in our community worked so hard to put on a party for all of us. Black lesbians especially spend too much of their life's energy doing 'fundraising' just for their own families, given the triple discrimination they experience for being black, gay and female. Too many events depend on women and people of color, whether paid low wages or volunteers, to do the setting up and cleaning up. Was I offended that it was white men who spent long hours getting the park ready for Pride Day or cleaning up all the trash and garbage left behind? Definitely not."

Very visible around Baltimore's pride celebration was newly appointed Baltimore city AIDS coordinator Brenda Pridgen, with pledges to make herself accessible and to make her appointment meaningful. Mayor Schmoke also made an appearance at the pride celebration.

CHICAGO. Chicago celebrated Gay Pride Day with the sixth annual Black Lesbian and Gay Picnic at Belmont Rocks Beach on the shore of Lake Michigan. Some 5,000 people danced after the parade to a sound system provided by the Clubhouse, enjoying barbecue until 9 p.m. that evening.

Among the members of Chicago's black lesbian and gay community in this years parade were Men of All Colors Together; Joan Jett Blakk, the mayor of Queer Chicago; a float representing Henry's Palace; the B.R.O.T.H.E.R.R.S. Project; and *Thing* magazine.

The pride celebration was preceded by the inauguration of the first Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame awards to two organizations and ten individuals, whose portraits and biographies will remain on permanent display at the Museum of the Chicago Historical Society. Among the first group inducted into the Hall of Fame are the late Ortez Alderson, Carol Johnson and Max Smith.

Ortez Alderson was involved in gay activism from the emergence of the Chicago Gay Liberation Front in 1969,until his death from AIDS in December, 1990.

Carol Johnson is the Midwest AIDS Project coordinator for the Service Employees International Union. A certified therapist, she has been active in a variety of lesbian and gay organizations and worked within heterosexual organizations as well, from the United Way of Chicago to the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays.

Max Smith has been involved in the NAACP, Operation PUSH, and has even engaged Minister Louis Farrakhan and other black clergy face-to-face on their homophobia. His involvement in Chicago's lesbian and gay community has ranged from the Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force to the Black Bible Study Group.

SAN DIEGO. San Diego's Gay Pride Celebration on July 20 and 21 has become one of this country's most multicultural, from it's board of directors to their pride theme "Together in Pride/Conjunto en Orgullo." "Together in Pride" was chosen as the theme for 1991 lesbian and gay pride celebrations by the International Association of Lesbian/Gay Pride coordinators, but San Diego is the first city on the U.S. mainland, by translating the theme into Spanish, to acknowledge the significant number of Latinos within the community, in addition to the relationship of San Diego to Tijuana, Mexico, which not only shares a common border with San Diego; but is home to about half of the nearly half million lesbian and gay men in the unique bi-national urban area.

Honored as 1991 Woman of the Year is M. Corinne Mackey, prominent San Diego lesbian activist and writer. Mackey has performed her original theater pieces at the San Diego Art Walk, the Lesbian Community Cultural Arts Festival, and the Juneteenth Celebration of the African-American Museum of Fine Art. Her work, *The Gathering*, was performed at the Lyceum. Her columns and commentary have been published in both San Diego and national lesbian and gay publications.

Featured in the program for this year's celebration was Lesbians and Gays of African Descent United (LAGADU), who in 1989 became the first African-American lesbian and gay organization to march in San Diego's pride parade.

Also featured in the program was BWMT/San Diego, revived in 1990.

LAGADU and San Diego activist-artist-performer Fundi are also among the entertainment for the Pride Festival.

The recognition is impressive as San Diego, California's second largest city, has a long history of conservatism that overlooks the existence of lesbians and gay men of color.

By contrast, the Los Angeles area has had a population where people of color have been the majority for years without any information from Gay Pride organizers ever being translated.

AND ELSEWHERE. This was not only a year of massive turnouts in America's major cities for lesbian and gay pride celebrations as more and more small towns and rural areas staged their own local celebrations. Organizers had every reason to be as proud of a turnout of 100 to 500 people as Los Angeles, San Francisco and New York did for parades a thousand times the size.

Even though some celebrations such as in Orange County, California, which had been literally forced off the streets and held on the safer grounds of the University of California, Irvine, many of those who marched in the parades this year did so right on Main St., U.S.A., in front of their entire community [in front of God and everybody].

Casselberry and Dupreé came out to Cape Cod to perform for a very wet celebration, because, as Urvashi Vaid, director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force told the 300 or so present, "This is where the movement exists. This is where gay men and lesbians live."

Vaid and Perry Watkins are probably the two most travel-

weary activists of this year's pride celebrations, called upon to stir the participants across the United States.

Sgt. Perry Watkins spoke at the Milwaukee Lesbian Gay Pride '91 Rally at Juneau Park following the parade. The Rev. Renee McCoy officiated a moving vows of commitment ceremony for some 50 couples. Watkins was at Lansing, Mich. as well, for that city's fifth Annual March and Festival for gay and lesbian rights on June 23. After traveling across the country, while riding down Broadway in Seattle's 1991 Lesbian/Gay Pride Parade, Watkins rode in a float festooned with a giant red, white and blue flag with yellow ribbons that unfortunately caught fire and broke down before making its way to Volunteer Park. Once safely at the park, Perry enjoyed his hometown's rally with his mother and nearly 50,000 other revelers.

Many other cities, too, have wavered from the custom of holding their pride events in late June, as it offers local residents the chance to visit other's celebrations. Long Beach now hosts the kickoff event of the year each May, as local officials had outlawed any events taking over city parks in June (saying that it wasn't fair, as summer was the most popular time for park usage by the public).

The final pride event will most likely be the Pomona Valley Pride Festival on Oct. 12 in Claremont, in conjunction with National Coming Out Day.

Philadelphia only had one parade this year, which saw Mayor Wilson Goode and Councilmember Angel Ortiz marching, followed by performances by Jennifer Holliday and Thelma Houston at the Pride Festival Dance Party on June 1 after the parade. Proceeds from the event went to Action AIDS. It was a much improved situation after the division that wracked the '90 celebration.

Puerto Rico held its first Gay Pride parade on June 23 with the theme "Herencia de Orgullo Gay Puertorriqueño" (Heritage of Puerto Rican Gay Pride).

Some 200 participants marched through the Condado district of San Juan as another 1,500 cheered on from the sidelines. Limousines carried representatives from a number of local bars and businesses, in addition to marchers from a number of organizations including the San Juan contingent of ACT-UP, Colectivo de Lesbianas Feministas, PFLAG, the student group at the University of Puerto Rico, and Fundación SIDA. A festival took place following the hour-long parade at the Village Disco in Condado.

San Jose, Calif. celebrated its first Gay Pride Parade in 16 years on June 9, in addition to its annual two day festival. Both the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and the City of San Jose declared June 3-9 "Lesbian and Gay Pride Week." Despite the defacing of a dozen posters advertising the festival and parade, more than 5,000 people lined the streets and with their families enjoyed the festival at the Santa Clara Fairgrounds.

The Triangle Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays and North Carolinians Against Racist and Religious Violence were but two of the organizations that participated in North Carolina's Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade that marched through Durham on June 29 to a rally at Duke University.

After all of the name-calling, bickering and counter accusations die down among the various boards, organizations and coalitions that put on, at great personal sacrifice with little thanks, the hundreds of pride celebrations in *this* country, South Africa will for the second time attempt to mount the only lesbian and gay pride parade in Africa. Buoyed by the success of last year's parade, organizers plan to hold a national conference to bring together all the parts of their diverse population to prepare a charter for lesbian and gay rights. Who would have believed that an *integrated* South African Lesbian and Gay Pride Celebration would arise taking its inspiration from the United States?

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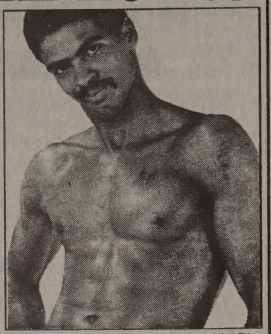

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Black Ministers Protest Lesbian, Gay Rights Bill

SACRAMENTO—Legislation that would prohibit job and housing discrimination against lesbians and gay men in California brought over 300 ministers and their congregations to include basketball player Ralph Sampson of the Sacramento Kings, to the Capital steps on March 15 in protest against the bill. The vast majority of the protesters were African-Americans.

Dr. Phillip Goudeax, a pastor at the mostly black Calvary Christian Center in Sacramento argued that "I am against discrimination, but I am against giving gays minority status ...The homosexual agenda is to get special privileges."

According to Lauri McBride of the lesbian and gay Lobby for Individual Freedom and Equality (LIFE), "AB101 does not grant anyone special privileges. AB101 would simply ensure that equal treatment under the law exists for all Californians regardless of their sexual orientation."

Rev. Lou Sheldon of the anti-gay Traditional Values Coalition, who is white, stated that "very clearly the black community realizes that the homosexual agenda is a parasite within the true Civil Rights Movement." Sheldon told the *Orange County Register,* "Black ministers have not had a voice and they are now thrilled that I can work for them."

Assembly Speaker Willie Brown, untered that "[Sheldon and his followers] are not for fair employment practices; they're not for affirmative action. They're not for any of those things that the black cats are for...They wouldn't be lined up with [black ministers] on any other issues. You could say it's hypocritical, it's certainly un-Christian like."

Sheldon also told the *Orange County Register* that he did not support the Federal Civil Rights Act, despite the mistaken belief by several of the black clergyman that he did.

Advanced publicity for the protest included a flyer that was forwarded to BLK from LIFE, which stated in part that "a new proposed law will give homosexuals, i.e., transvestites, sadist, pedophiles, lesbians, gays and beastiality the same minority status as blacks, Hispanics and Asians...True minorities are insulted, you can't change the color of your skin, but a person chooses their sexual orientation." It went on to falsely claim that "AB101 would challenge affirmative action and minority scholarships and programs, and force landlords and employers to hire "sexual deviants."

Assemblymen Terry Friedman, author of the bill, in his response to the California Legislature, blasted opponents of AB101 for their distortions and lies in trying to defeat the measure. Friedman said, "Enough is enough! From the time AB101 was introduced, the opposition has raised nothing but unabashed lies in opposition to the bill. We cannot allow extremist to stop AB101 by fabricating outlandish arguments that are intended to promote hysteria. The time has come to expose and stop these lies."

Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, president and founder of the National Rainbow Coalition, Inc., in his testimony to the California State Legislature, stated in part that "We all gain when democracy and justice are expanded. The greatness of this nation rests on contributions made by African-Americans, women, lesbians, and gays, and all the other patches that made up the great patchwork quilt of this nation. Yet none of these patches were a part of the vision of the writers of the constitution. Those writers believed that their own mothers, sisters, and daughters were not fit to vote, that people of African-American descent were three fifths people, that Native Americans were not fit to live. Today we see the destruction of that narrow vision. We must continue to expand the streams of democracy, let the backwaters run into the mainstream and create a mighty river of equality. I urge you to support AB101, and affirm our commitment to equal rights and justice."

The ministers argued that homosexuals don't deserve protection because they are not a "legitimate minority."

But according to a Questions and Answers pamphlet produced by LIFE, "Some define "legitimate minority" as something we have no control over, like ancestry, ethnicity or race. An individuals sexual orientation they argue, is a matter of choice, and therefore is not a basis for equal treatment under the law. Even if some hold to this opinion that homosexuality is a "choice," the Fair Employment and Housing Act already protects two classes that are a matter of choice; religion and marital status."

In response to charges that AB101 would require employers to meet quotas or affirmative action programs for the hiring of lesbians and gay men LIFE says no, AB101 has absolutely nothing to do with quotas, goals, timetables or affirmative action programs.

Rev. Dorsey O. Blake, director of the Center for Urban Black Studies in Berkeley, spoke in support of AB101 stating that "It is a question of justice that AB101 raises; and, as such, not only is consistent with the struggle to include persons and groups who were not named or identified in that struggle; but would surely have to be included and identified as being among the oppressed."

On June 4 on the steps of the California State Office Building in San Francisco, a coalition of black leaders in the Bay Area also spoke out in favor of AB101, including Rev. Amos Brown of San Francisco's Third Baptist Church. Rev. Brown, who does not have a reputation of strongly embracing gay rights, nevertheless endorsed the bill, stating "Whenever we push another person down, it degrades all of us." Also speaking out on behalf of AB101 were Rev. Cecil Williams of Glide Memorial United Methodist Church, Bishop Melvin Talbert, and Aileen Hernandez, a former member of the U.S. Equal Opportunity Commission.

Rev. Brown promised to take the matter before the National Baptist Convention.

Support for AB101 among African Americans stands at 57 percent according to a poll commissioned by the *Washington Blade*, higher than among any other ethnicity. Activists have suggested that Sheldon's campaign aims to "drive a wedge between the African American community and the gay and lesbian community," as described by Cleve Jones of San Francisco.

Joe Hawkins, chair of BMX/Sacramento who also testified before the California State Legislature on behalf of black lesbian and gay men told BLK that, "BMX has been actively involved in bringing this issue to the black community and is working with chapters across the state as well, to encourage other black gay and lesbian organizations and friends of our community to support AB101 with cards and phone calls to their assemblymember, state senator, and to the governor."

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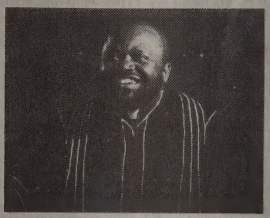

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Librarians Protest Use of Langston Hughes Poetry

By Mark Haile, BLK Assistant Editor

LOS ANGELES—Los Angeles City librarians found themselves uncomfortably and uncustomarily in the spotlight at the center of a controversy revolving around the identification of Langston Hughes as a black gay man.

June 1991 was designated "Lesbian and Gay History Month" for the Los Angeles Public Library, the second largest public library system in the United States. The City Librarian, Elizabeth Martinez Smith, fully encouraged and endorsed the concept, giving lesbian and gay history month similar status to Black History Month and other observances. Members of the library's Gay and Lesbian United Employees (GLUE) even asked the librarian to lunch to express their appreciation.

The furor began with the dissemination of posters and pamphlets describing the celebration. The posters read "Lesbian and Gay History Month," with the poem "Tell Me," by Langston Hughes on the left:

Why should it be my *loneliness,*
Why should it be my *song,*
Why should it be my *dream*
Deferred
Overlong?

Several librarians, members of the California Librarians Black Caucus, voiced an immediate disapproval of the inclusion of the Langston Hughes poem as though Hughes's work could speak only to blacks and for blacks, and called use of the black poet laureate "insensitive and divisive." The outrage resulted in Smith ordering that the hundreds of posters and thousands of bibliographies of works by lesbian and gay authors that had included Hughes be removed and destroyed. Ironically, the Hughes poem was printed over a pink triangle, the symbol used a half century ago to identify gay men in Nazi concentration camps.

New posters and pamphlets were printed for the public libraries before the end of Lesbian and Gay Pride Month, but the effect of the censoring was felt citywide at readings and film screenings scheduled as part of the observance.

Several of Los Angeles's most prominent lesbian and gay authors, invited to kick off the series of readings included poems by Hughes, the "Tell Me" poem in particular, at the reading held in the auditorium of the library's central branch on Spring St. The poem was also included by the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum in its Gay Pride newsletter in response to the furor.

Smith said in a memo distributed to the library staff that "a major reason for my decision was concern for the wishes of the Hughes family," in reference to the late George Houston Bass, who had blocked every attempt to portray Hughes as gay in court.

Bass, private secretary to Hughes who died in 1967, had been trustee of the estate until his own death last October. There was no immediate blood family of Hughes left alive.

Prior to his death, Bass had successfully forced Isaac Julien's film, *Looking for Langston* to be re-edited, with passages of Hughes work removed, before it could be shown in the United States. With Bass's death, it isn't immediately clear how the Hughes estate will suppress accounts of Langston Hughes's gay life—what little information that exists on the matter.

The controversy within the library and throughout the community was not satisfied with the excuse of lawsuits by dead men. In a letter from GLUE to the City Librarian, they stated, "We can imagine no objection to the inclusion of the magnificent Langston Hughes poem, "Tell Me," that is not either ignorant, bigoted or irrelevant."

The issue of homophobia was downplayed by the City Librarian office, and denied by the Black Librarian's Caucus, but as GLUE member Cosmo Bua noted, "obviously if Hughes's quote had been used for 'Left-Handed History Month' there would have been no problem."

Although the number of librarians who actually complained to the City Librarian's office was set at only five—and anonymous at that—the added weight of the Board of Library Commissioners may have helped tip the scales in favor of the censoring.

The issue of the censorship was a bitter one with GLUE, nevertheless they sat down with the affirmative action committee and again with Smith to help plan workshops to promote understanding among the many diverse groups of employees in the library system.

Many GLUE members, still in the closet because of the type of homophobia exhibited in the Hughes incident, were dismayed that the mood of the unparalleled optimism prior to the June observance had changed to the point that the very future of the celebration is now at stake.

The Librarians Guild has communicated with Smith in regard to the methodology of her handling of the affair, which she admitted could have been handled differently. Her aim, she said, had been to avoid controversy.

Even with the sensitivity workshops among library employees, almost all of the library's available materials on lesbians and gay men are to be found at the central branch's temporary location, which is suffering from a lack of visibility of its own while the landmark library building is being rebuilt. There are between 5- and 10,000 lesbian and gay related titles in the system, yet more that two thirds of the 65 branches do not have a single lesbian or gay book.

By contrast, the Los Angeles County Library has lesbian and gay titles in over 40 percent of its 90 branches. While there is no special lesbian and gay history collection in either the city or county library system, the county has at the West Hollywood branch an HIV information center that is unsurpassed throughout the country. Librarians at the branch are up to date on information and sources for information that daily they provide to politicians, health care providers, and the news media on top of serving the needs of people directly affected by HIV.

No plans for such an HIV information center have been announced as yet for the city library system, although the lack of availability of such essential life-affecting information is what lead to Bua founding GLUE three years ago as his lover was dying of AIDS.

The few original signs featuring the Hughes poem that escaped destruction have become one of the most sought after souvenirs of 1991's Lesbian and Gay Pride Celebration, and one of it's symbols of the controversies that are part and parcel of the efforts for inclusion. No dollar figure was available at press time on the cost to the city for replacing the signs and pamphlets.

Of the black lesbian and gay librarians, Bua told BLK that there were some who were members of GLUE, yet the sudden media spotlight on the organization, which keeps no list of it's members, keeps most of them from being open.

Bua noted that the inability of librarians to be open on the job, coupled with the invisibility of lesbian and gay authors, adds to the difficulty for lesbian and gay youth to find the very types of role models that the heterosexual black librarians claimed they were trying to preserve. "We are in the middle of a holocaust for the gay community," he said, "precisely because of the same un-examined homophobia under which the city librarian operates."

L.A. County Sheriff Enforcement Efforts Fail to Spoil Merry Mood of 2000 at July 4th Malibu Beach Party

By Mark Haile, BLK Assistant Editor
Photos by Bruce Hunt

MALIBU, Calif.—What started out as the third annual gathering of friends became a beach party of over 2000 black lesbians and gay men over the Fourth of July weekend.

The day-long affair began with contests and sports at Point Dume Beach, ending in the early hours of the morning at a mid-Wilshire after-party.

Almost all the participants enjoyed the day long event, despite reports of intense harassment by the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department that included surveillance and pressure on the partygoers to leave.

The throngs of beachgoers brought every manner of gazebos, canopies and picnic blankets with them, including an information table from the Minority AIDS Project providing information about safe sex.

Although the crowd was festive, and there were no incidents during the beach party, the County Sheriff's Malibu Station grew alarmed when the numbers of people started swelling without any prior knowledge on the part of officials that a party of that size was taking place.

"It was somewhat...an event of concern to us in terms of the numbers and the response that we initially got from some members of the group," said Lt. Michael Moore of operations at the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Malibu Station. "We have to take somewhat of a proactive stance."

In the prior beach parties held the last two summers, however, there was no interference by County Sheriff's deputies.

The sheer size of the crowd and a stepped up policy of rigorous enforcement of the prohibition of alcohol on public beaches was the primary motivation for what Moore termed "prudent" procedures. "Enforcement efforts are in accordance with the attendance," said Moore, noting, "that it was a relatively cohesive 2000 people represents a different initial problem."

The County of Los Angeles has been publicly announcing via television, radio and newspapers that alcohol on public beaches is a serious hazard, as well as illegal, and would not be tolerated.

The high degree of concern among residents of recently-incorporated Malibu over the number of accidents caused by drunken beachgoers, coupled with alarm expressed after an earlier riot between rival inner city gangs at nearby Zuma Beach that caught Sheriff deputies unaware, were widely thought by the partygoers to be the motivating factors for the land, sea and air incursion on the party. A number of participants who spoke with BLK said emphatically that it was clear the Sheriff deputies attempted to intimidate them into leaving from the moment they made their appearance on the

scene.

Phill Wilson, coordinator of AIDS services for the city of Los Angeles, said that "the sheriffs were hovering around. They stopped cars from coming into the parking lot. By 1 p.m. there was almost no one but blacks [in the parking lot]."

The parking lot nearest the party was closed by deputies about 1 p.m. in an attempt to discourage new arrivals, even though it was far from filled to capacity. Late arriving participants walked up to a mile after that to get to the party activities.

Some participants thought they saw Sheriff deputies continue to let carloads of white beachgoers into the Point Dume parking lot, a point emphatically denied by the County Sheriff's Malibu Station.

The presence of alcohol was the focal point of discussions between those taking responsibility for the party and Sheriff's deputies. A check point was set up on the trail to the party, and coolers by the hundreds were searched for alcohol which was dumped out on the spot.

A dozen deputies on foot were supplemented by mounted officers on horseback who rode between picnic blankets. There was some tension in the air at the presence of Sheriff's deputies, with individual deputies being apprehensive as well.

Officers videotaped the crowds as they walked through the party, as well as from the low flying helicopter and a cutter off shore.

Both the United States Coast Guard and the County Sheriff's Malibu Station deny that the boat was under their jurisdiction; but it's presence with officers on board was cited by a number of those present.

More annoying was the helicopter, flying at altitudes witnesses called "dangerously low," kicking up sand and blaring continuously that alcohol was not permitted on the beach at a deafening noise level.

While witnesses confirm that alcohol was widespread among partygoers, many were angered that intimidation seemed more the aim of the deputies.

As beachgoers left the party, every driver was reportedly given a sobriety check, with passengers in some instances being asked to take the wheel if the driver had been drinking, to which Lt. Moore noted, "we have an obligation to keep drunk drivers off the road."

Only a few citations were issued overall for alcohol. There were no arrests, and no major confrontations occurred between the crowd and deputies. Normally, each and every violator would have been cited as well as having their alcohol confiscated and dumped. Although the paddy wagon on hand was never used, it's mere existence in the parking lot was an indication that the Sheriff's deputies were trying to be prepared for any contingency. The enormity of the crowd made deputies decide on what was in their viewpoint a more relaxed posture of enforcement.

"We felt somewhat distressed," said Moore, "that the persons who were responsible for organizing and supervising didn't exercise the control and responsibility to educate these people that this is an alcohol-free beach."

"I think that...in that there were no incidents, arrests, no disturbances, and nobody got hurt, the protection of life and property is our primary mission and concern here, not how many tickets you can write."

In terms of the long-criticized tactic of Sheriff's deputies videotaping lesbians and gay men at the beach in the absence of any criminal activity, Moore acknowledged, "there's no question that the group was monitored in order to make certain that things did not get out of hand, that we didn't have to do anything."

Groups from ACT-UP to the ACLU have long decried the lesbian and gay public event taping policy. While no verbal racial or homophobic comments were reported by any of the partygoers who spoke with BLK, one person noted, "They knew it was gay. They would have to have been blind not to know." Another witness who called the party "inspirational," said the deputies were "assholes. They were trying to wear us down; but we wouldn't give them the satisfaction."

Others agreed that "while the sheriffs made things tense, it didn't ruin our day. We were having too good of a time."

Others called the turnout at the party "amazing," and "incredible." Word of mouth has spread on the annual beach gathering to cities around the country. At least half of the participants were thought to be visitors to Los Angeles from the San Francisco Bay Area and from Detroit, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C. and other cities.

During the afternoon, the partygoers enjoyed volleyball and other beach games, and participated in a variety of contests.

There was a best body contest for men, and a wet T-shirt contest for women, games of tag, costume races, relay races, with trophies awarded in about ten of the activities.

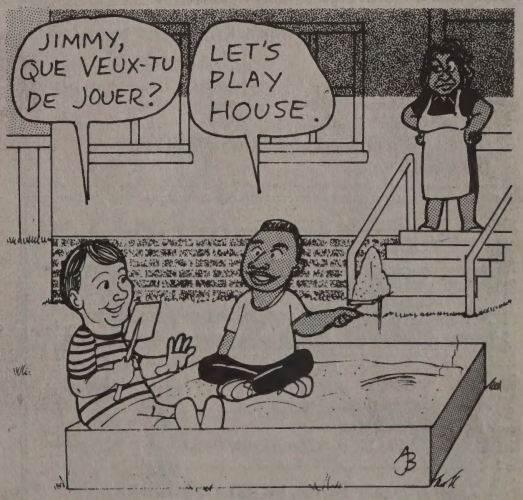
The number of women present was up considerably over the previous years, to between a third and half.

One of the group of friends who has been a part of the party from it's inception described it saying, "it's one of the few times we could be who we are. It's a day we can share energy with each other."

Approximately 800 revelers paid $10 each to attend the after party at the Park Plaza Hotel across from MacArthur Park later that evening, while another 200 waited to get in.

Despite the fact that some of those attending the after party had been drinking since early afternoon, the after party went smoothly, without those crowded inside or the unfortunate number outside who could not get in causing any disturbances.

The interior of the Park Plaza, especially it's dramatic staircase that leads to the ballroom, is recognizable immediately from any number of popular music videos. One of the fiercest black DJs in Los Angeles was brought in for the occasion, which kept the celebratory mood in place to the very end. The group putting together the after party has already started the search for a larger, equally elegant location for next year's event as the need has grown to move the festivities into a space twice the size.



Mrs. Baldwin first begins to suspect.

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Big Role for Women of Color in Troubled Confab

By Alycee J. Lane

ATLANTA—Over 3,000 lesbians converged in Atlanta on April 24 for what developed into a heated, controversial and often unorganized conference on the theme "Diversity, Solidarity, Empowerment." Designed as an opportunity for a diverse group of women to formulate a national lesbian agenda, the National Lesbian Conference (NLC) was immediately beset with dissention and distrust.

On the first day of events, the Latina caucus discovered that it was omitted from the conference schedule altogether, and the Native American lesbians were left without any space in which to meet. It was later found that the omissions were typographical errors, but by the time this information was relayed, lesbians of color organized and, in the middle of Friday's plenary program, took over the stage to protest not only the omissions but also other experiences of racism as well.

A spokeswoman for the group took the microphone to air the grievances, saying, "We have been told that they need to decide when we have a safe space, when we can vote, and that they make the decisions that determine our participation. We want to know: who is *they*?"

The group also demanded information on who was accountable and, "most importantly, we want to know who the phantom typist is." This was in reference to the unknown woman who made the typographical errors in the program.

Eventually, the NLC's steering committee agreed to meet with the lesbians of color the following morning. Throughout the remainder of the conference, however, various charges of exclusion and insensitivity persisted.

The NLC did provide a number of conference workshops on a wide range of topics, enabling women to come together to discuss their particular issues and concerns. Some of these included "Female Ejaculation," "What's Class Got to Do With It," anti-oppression training, and others. Also included was a concert extravaganza featuring such artists as Two Spirited Thunder People, the Washington Sisters, Lea Delaria, and Sue Fink, to name just a few.

Many of the problems that developed during the conference were linked to the steering committee's desire to create a "new process" of conference organizing, whereby the committee would cease its duties once the event was underway. This would, theoretically, allow attendees to make the NLC whatever they desired. The goal was to enable a truly democratic event.

Even the steering committee itself was structured to ensure the creation of a multi-cultural, multi-issue conference: it was comprised of not less than 50 percent lesbians of color, 5 percent older lesbians, and 20 percent lesbians with disabilities. Though the committee experienced a high turnover rate, it managed to maintain its parity.

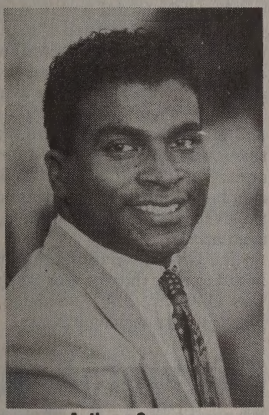
In spite of the difficulties faced, a national agenda did emerge from the conference proceedings, shaped extensively by the lesbians of color.

This agenda called for: an end to U.S. imperialism throughout the world; organizing the lesbian community against the upcoming 500 year anniversary of Columbus' so-called "discovery" of America; a national health care program; an end to the English-only movement; more Federal money to be spent on human needs and not U.S. militarism; an end to forced sterilization of women of color and protection of all women's right to choose; money for AIDS not for war; and to organize for the National March on Washington to be held in 1993 or 1994.

APLA Names Black Gay Man to Communications Post

By Karen Ocamb

LOS ANGELES—If he wasn't so debonair, Anthony Sprauve might be considered a hunk. But tall, dark, smart, suave and single 32-year-old Sprauve has his mind on his new mission: to let HIV-impacted people know that AIDS Project Los Angeles provides services that can help handle many aspects of the disease.



Anthony Sprauve

As APLA's new communications director, Sprauve is particularly concerned about getting the word out to the Los Angeles black lesbian and gay community. As part of that outreach effort, on Aug. 7 APLA is premiering the much-praised documentary *Paris Is Burning* about the black drag queens who originated Vogueing in Harlem nightclubs. There will be an after-screening party at Jewel's Catch One to which *anyone* dressed in drag will be admitted free.

Sprauve hopes to use the party as a way to introduce himself to the black lesbian and gay community. He also hopes he will not be incorrectly judged by the measure of success he has achieved.

Born in New York City, Sprauve grew up in a poor black neighborhood in Queens. His mother was the one with the high school degree in the loving, two-parent household. He spent 12 years in Catholic schools which did not shield either him or his three younger brothers from having friends die from gun shot wounds or AIDS and from having cousins who are still sitting in jail.

Sprauve graduated from Boston University in 1981 where he majored in Communications. He fell in love and "came out" as a college junior, an experience he calls "surprisingly painless" since he "lucked into an incredibly supportive family." Using "gay people radar," Sprauve also found friends at school who were coming out at the same time.

Actually being gay was not a problem for Sprauve. Growing up in New York City he understood that homosexuality is a "viable alternative" to heterosexuality. From puberty on, he experienced bisexual relationships, dating women and straight or curious men. He just never quite understood why such a big deal was made over sex—until he slept with a gay man. "Ah ha! So that's what it's all about!" he recalls telling himself afterwards. He's never "wrestled" with being gay since then.

After college, Sprauve landed a job writing public relations pitches and speeches for executives of NYNEX, the New York Telephone system. Shortly after he was promoted and transferred to New York, he left to work for the New York Times Company which owns the *New York Times* newspaper, 17 magazines, five TV stations, and 27 regional newspapers. In short order Sprauve became the company's public relations manager, writing speeches for the President, handling media relations, and producing the company's quarterly magazine. He thrived on the opportunity to be creative, "be a ham," and have a lot of responsiblity, flexibility, and visibility.

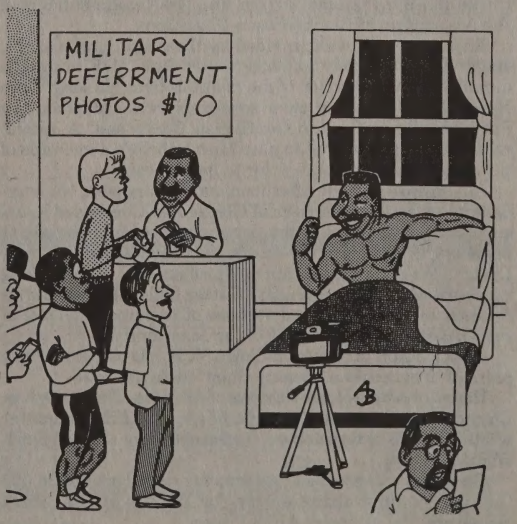
Though a well-paid speech writer and spokesperson for two major companies, Sprauve's proudest speeches have been to businesses that wanted to know about an AIDS-in-the-workplace program he developed. In 1983, NYEX mishandled an employee's AIDS diagnoisis. As the former volunteer head of PR at Boston's AIDS Action Committee, Sprauve suggested that the company start a workplace-oriented AIDS awareness program instead of simply countering the barrage of negative publicity. His programs where such a success that other companies asked for his advice. "It was important," Sprauve says.

His job at APLA is important too. "I need to get smart," he says, explaining that he is currently undergoing the APLA Hotline training course to learn all he can about AIDS. He just learned about women and AIDS, for instance, and how the CDC has failed to recognize or has misclassified opportunistic infections and signals that are peculiar to HIV manifestations in women.

Sprauve realizes that a hard part of his job will be explaining APLA services to an African American community that regards APLA for "white gay males" only. He admits that for a long time that reputation was "justifiably deserved." But, he says, APLA is getting its own house in order, recruiting more minority staff and bringing to the board of directors such respected businesspeople as Jewel Thaïs-Williams, who is APLA's board secretary, and Vallery Kounz, president of Republic Home Video. APLA is also examining how to make services like the Food Bank, doctor-referrals and support groups more accessible to those who need them, perhaps in conjunction with other community-based organizations.

The "proof will be in what APLA does," Sprauve says. "But I would not have moved here if I didn't fundamentally believe APLA's heart isn't in the right place. After ten years in corporate American with different Fortune 500 companies, I'm really excited about the chance to give back to the black and gay communities," he says.

Sprauve hopes for one more thing: to one day adopt a child with a loving, longtime companion. Sprauve hopes to carry on.



ACT-UP Targets AMA for Protest at Annual Meeting

By Antonio Sharp

CHICAGO—Several ACT-UP chapters demonstrated outside the Chicago Hilton and Towers where the American Medical Association (AMA) held its annual House of Delegates meeting last month. The doctors were debating a critical issue of when, if ever, patients and doctors should confide in each other that they are HIV positive.

ACT-UP members from 16 states, mostly from the midwest, San Francisco, Boston and Kansas City targeted the AMA's current policy which opposes freedom of treatment, thus affecting people with AIDS, cancer, and others who have turned to non-orthodox treatment for their health care. But the AMA has confirmed that they support mandatory testing of immigrants, semen and organ donors.

"I wish that more black gays and lesbians would get involved with activism," said Eddie Taylor, an African-American member of the recently formed ACT-UP/Windy City. "AIDS affects us too and many blacks should get involved and demand equal treatment."

People with AIDS, poor people, African-Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, Asian-Americans, and women make up the ranks of the uninsured and underinsured.

At the convention, Vice President Dan Quayle addressed the delegates while activists clashed with police outside. When Quayle stated that the government is making efforts to provide funding for AIDS victims, he was immediately interrupted by an ACT-UP/Chicago member, who shouted "People with AIDS need national health care."

Marching down Michigan Ave. and ending the march at the Hilton, about 250 activists chanted, "We're here, we're queer and we're not shopping" and "Hey, hey, AMA, how many people have you killed today? Some carried signs saying, "Slay the AMA" and "Caution: PWAs crossing." ACT-UP members spray painted "The AMA is killing us" and "Fight the AMA" on the marble wall of the Hilton and storefronts. The activists then marched to police headquarters on 11th and State St., about a mile away.

Police officers on foot and horseback wore rubber gloves and shouted anti-gay slurs and insults. Twenty men and seven women were arrested for disorderly conduct and mob action charges. Some activists began writing down police officers badge numbers as evidence of brutality. Other officers removed their caps and badges, which is a violation of police regulation.

The *Chicago Tribune* reported that an officer was overheard saying that he was going to "beat the demonstrators 'like I beat my wife' " although the officer was not observed physically harassing anyone.

Gentlemen Concerned Sponsors Garden Party

LOS ANGELES—Gentlemen Concerned held their Sixth Annual Garden Party on July 14 at the Los Angeles Ebell Club, raising a record $34,000 to provide housing and direct cash assistance to people with AIDS in the minority communities of Los Angeles.

Among the 300 in attendance were Dr. Wilbert C. Jordan, Phill Wilson, Rue Thaïs-Williams, Executive Director Leslie Burke of Visiting Home Nurses, and Dr. Natalie Sanders of the Association of Black Women Physicians.

Entertainment was provided by the gospel group Light, singer Tracy Kennedy, and songwriter Sami McKinney who announced that a portion of the royalties from his song "Love Never Dies," featured on a soon-to-be-released album by Patti Labelle, will go to Gentlemen Concerned. A special clearance was arranged to play Miss Labelle's demo tape of the song for the audience prior to its release.

All expenses for the afternoon, as in years past, were underwritten by the members of Gentlemen Concerned to assure that 100 percent of the donations would go directly to providing AIDS services, according to spokesman Rodney Carter. "We're an organization of professional people trying to solve a community problem," Carter told BLK. "We had an increase over last year in donations of 18 percent in spite of hard times. That's the spirit of the community."

Over a dozen prizes, including a VCR, CD player and five pairs of tickets to see "Beauty Shop" were awarded.

Donations from Home Savings of America, The Study bar, Cosmopolites West and the gift of an IBM PS/2 computer worth $12,000 to Gentlemen Concerned were also acknowledged.

Gentlemen Concerned has thus far raised over $136,000 through its fundraising efforts for Dignity House, Rue's House and the Minority AIDS Project.

Farrington-Domingue Is New Task Force Co-Chair

By Karen Ocamb

Amid all the hoopla surrounding the unprecedented "coming out" of lesbian and gay law enforcement officers at the June CSW Pride Festival, another major event went almost unnoticed by the gay community. Sandra Farrington-Domingue became the first person-of-color co-chair of the Gay and Lesbian Police Advisory Task Force (GLPATF) in that organization's tumultuous history. She replaces Donna Wade who stepped down before her term expired. Mark Haskins remains the gay male co-chair.

Farrington-Domingue, 43, officially took office July 1 after almost two years as vice-chair, a position she assumed following a stint as a backup to Marshall Phillips, Stonewall Democratic Club's representative to the Task Force. Farrington-Domingue has been a building mechanical inspector with the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety for 17 years, and a holder of a law degree from Glendale's Kensington University.

At a hearing before the Police Commission on July 9, the Task Force presented four requests: continued uniformed police recruitment at lesbian and gay community events; joining other minorities in having visibile representation in the Office of the Chief of Police; revisit the Grobeson anti-discrimination case against the LAPD; and make sure that the Pride Behind the Badge officers who "came out" during the Pride event are protected from ridicule, prejudice and discrimination.

The Task Force plans to incorporate members of Pride Behind the Badge into the sensitivity training programs that GLPATF already administers at the Police Academy. But, says Farrington-Domingue, it is vital that the training remain under civilian control. "We provide a different avenue of thinking. It is important for them to have (a civilian) perspective because they might miss something," she says.

Farrington-Domingue is hoping more people of color businesses and organizations will join the Task Force to try to effect change in relations between the lesbian and gay community and the LAPD. GLPATF meets the first Thursday of every month and can be reached at 213-871-5861.

Gay Writer Apologies for Article Thought Slanted

SAN FRANCISCO—A San Francisco Bay Area freelance writer, Dennis Conkin, has apologized for racially slanted news coverage of a recent article about a murder of a gay man. Conkin also announced his resignation from the newspaper, but denied that controversy over the article was the cause.

The newspaper in which the article appeared, the *Bay Area Reporter*, has for many years printed the ethnicity of the victims and alleged assailants of violent crimes when the suspects are people of color, but not when both victims and assailants are white, or the victims are people of color and the assailants are white.

In the controversial article, Conkin wrote that the victim, William Hayward of San Francisco, "...Apparently had a sexual preference for black males and for 'rough trade' sex." Bay Area people of color organizations, other area publications, and the owner of one of two bars named in the article are voicing their displeasure.

Rodney Barnette, owner of the Eagle Creek Saloon, in a letter to *B.A.R.* publisher Bob Ross released to BLK, stated that "I am baffled by the insensitivity of the article and the poor editorial judgement which allowed it to appear in the *B.A.R.* laced with such racist innuendos." The Eagle Creek Saloon is the only bar in the city of San Francisco owned by an openly gay black man.

The manner in which the ethnicity of individuals is reported in the *B.A.R.* appears to have remained unchanged even with Conkin's departure.

BMX Establishes Denver Chapter for Black Men

DENVER—A local chapter of the Black Men's Xchange has organized in Denver. Emerging as the newest of four local black gay and lesbian organizations, BMX Denver offers men an Afrocentric positive and healthy social alternative.

"It was created as a safe place for black men to come together and discuss issues of concern as well as to provide and encourage brotherhood and unity," said John Young of BMX.

"White gay men have their own experience, and most have felt empowered as they were raised and socialized," Young continued. "Black men, on the other hand, have had to fight not only for self-acceptance, but have had to go out and get a sense of empowerment."

Young noted that black gay and black straight, black gay and white gay communities were "connected," but by having a comfortable place for African-American gay men to be together, they would be in a better position to participate in those other groupings to which they belong.

"BMX provides a place and a forum which allows men to express themselves in a safe and affirming environment," said Young.

BMX Denver is currently involved in a campaign against racism in local bars. The group will also participate with other Denver black lesbian and gay organizations to organize a community awareness brunch and celebration of blackness. Plans are also being made for black business outings, a black community forum and a community newsletter.

BMX/Denver can be reached 1512 E. 14th Ave., Denver, Colo. 80218. Telephone 303-837-1530.

CDC June Statistics on AIDS Cases in U.S.

	White (not Latino)		Black (not Latino)		Latino		Asian/Pacific Islander		Amer. Indian/ Askan. Native		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
MALE												
Gay and bisexual contact	73,584	80	17,749	44	11,219	46	812	82	137	63	103,729	66
Straight IV drug use	6,035	7	14,299	35	9,513	39	32	3	23	11	29,974	19
Gay and bisexual contact, and IV drug use	6,717	7	3,155	8	1,669	7	23	2	35	16	11,611	7
Hemophilia and coagulation disorder	1,226	1	101	0	119	0	17	2	8	4	1,475	1
Straight contact	669	1	2,772	7	414	2	8	1	4	2	3,872	2
Receipt of blood transfusion, blood components or tissue	1,787	2	373	1	223	1	46	5	2	1	2,439	2
Other and undetermined	2,001	2	1,861	5	1,247	5	55	6	10	5	5,217	3
Male subtotal	92,019	100	40,310	100	24,404	100	993	100	219	100	158,317	100
FEMALE												
IV drug use	1,914	41	5,213	56	1,837	50	15	16	18	53	9,013	51
Hemophilia and coagulation disorder	26	1	6	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	35	0
Straight contact	1,398	30	3,043	33	1,370	38	32	35	8	24	5,872	33
Receipt of blood transfusion, blood components or tissue	984	21	321	3	194	5	28	30	4	12	1,535	9
Other and undetermined	330	7	676	7	243	7	17	18	4	12	1,275	7
Female subtotal	4,652	100	9,259	100	3,647	100	92	100	34	100	17,730	100
Total	96,671		49,569		28,051		1,085		253		176,047	

Source: "Adult/Adolescent AIDS Cases by Sex, Exposure Category and Race/Ethnicity Reported through May 1991, United States," U.S. Centers for Disease Control. HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, June 1991. Beginning this month, the month indicated in the title of this report will coincide with the month indicated in the title of the CDC report from which the data is taken.

D.C. Holds First Ever Black Lesbian, Gay Pride Day

By Mark Haile

WASHINGTON—The weather came shining through and the throngs came out for the first Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Festival held May 25 in Washington. "Let Us All Be Together" was the theme for the event, which organizers said attracted hundreds of men and women.

Welmore Cook, event coordinator, said proceeds from the festival will be directed toward agencies providing HIV-related services to the black lesbian and gay community, ideally those that receive little or no government assistance. About $3,000 net profit will be distributed.

Although the focus was on raising money to support services for people with AIDS, organizers said they hope a byproduct was to encourage black gay people throughout the area to "come out of the closet." "Two and three years ago, we were still denying we existed, or that AIDS was a problem in this community," Theodore Kirkland, one of the festival's organizers, told the *Washington Post*. "Any grassroots project has to turn itself around. I think the time is right now."

Organizers chose Banneker Field near Howard University in order to be as close as possible to the black community.

"The festival came about because Cook, Ernest Hopkins and Theodore Kirkland talked among themselves about raising money for AIDS service organizations," said Carlene Cheatam, a member of the organizing committee who directed the lesbian outreach for the festival. "The need is great, so they saw this as one way to make money. They took that action with that belief."

"They went around and laid the groundwork, as far as getting the permits, identifying the space, getting the petitions signed by the people in the neighborhood and following up on all the other requirements of putting on something like this. Then once the foundation was laid, they then extended an invitation to the community to help make it happen," she told BLK.

"They incorporated Black Lesbian and Gay Pride, Inc. This is just a small corporation of people who said, 'let's do this'," she added.

Cheatam was quick to say that the festival was not organized as any kind of reaction to the annual Lesbian and Gay Pride Day festival, held in Dupont Circle. She stressed that while some black heterosexuals were expected to come to support the Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Day, most folks would probably opt to go to both, including the organizers of the Black Lesbian and Gay Pride event. Admission to the festival was only $2.00. "The reality is that there is no other entity in our community raising money for us for that need," she said.

Among the most visible organizations taking part in the first ever event were the D.C. Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gay Men, the Inner City AIDS Network, IMPACT-DC, Best Friends of D.C., Black Women Together, the Black Women's Support Group and the Nob Hill Bar.

The day long festival featured women's and men's sporting events and booths from community organizations. Entertainment was provided by a number of groups, including the Paper Dolls.

Cheatam didn't see the festival knocking down the walls of denial among the heterosexuals in the black community overnight, but remained optimistic.

"It's just one of the many steps that are necessary," she told BLK. "I don't believe that as a community we've been comfortable enough to dialogue with the straight black community, and we know they are not comfortable dialoguing with us...I wish that we were confident enough to organize ourselves to do that education. We're the only ones who can do that. But I don't believe that we are comfortable or organized or whatever to do that effectively. I hope that dialogue starts again and that some people would be willing to connect to make it happen."

A number of local politicians made appearances, such as councilmembers Frank Smith and John Ray, and D.C. Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton.

Organizers also took time out to honor artist Adrienne Blackwell with a community service award for the female illusionist's efforts at raising money for AIDS organizations.

Also honored as "Man of the Year" was Phil Pannell and "Woman of the Year" Charlene Cheatam. Best male entertainer was Melvin Parks, best female entertainer, Halima Williams, and Sparkle McHarris as best drag performer.

The turnout was far greater than he expected, Kirkland said. What members have to do now, he said, is ask themselves one question: "Are we fully at that crossroads, where we go from being underground and grassroots to being recognized?"

Hemphill Appears in L.A.; Writing Events Slated

LOS ANGELES—Black gay cultural activist and poet Essex Hemphill, editor of the highly acclaimed black gay anthology *Brother to Brother,* will present readings from that anthology and other works, in benefit performances for the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum. The opening night performance on Aug. 1 with other contributors to the anthology will be followed on Aug. 2 and 3 by Hemphill performing works from his latest book, *Ceremonies.*

Essex Hemphill is a poet, writer, and performance artist. In addition to *Brother to Brother,* he is the author of two chapbooks, *Earth Life* and *Conditions.* His poetry is featured in two critically acclaimed, award winning black gay films: *Looking for Langston* and *Tongues Untied.* His essays and poetry have appeared in *High Performance, Gay Community News, Outweek, Outlook, Advocate, Thing, Tribe, Bastard Review,* and the *San Francisco Chronicle.* Hemphill is the recipient of Fellowships in Poetry from the D.C. Commission for the Arts and a 1986 Fellowship in Literature from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Essex Hemphill continues the work of the late Joseph Beam, who edited the first anthology of black gay literature, *In the Life,* published in 1986. It was Hemphill's determination that *Brother to Brother* should be completed when Beam died of AIDS-related causes in 1988. *Brother to Brother* is an important contribution to the growing body of literature addressing sexual identity. It compliments *In the Life* in documenting the lives and experiences of black gay men.

The weekend with Essex Hemphill is presented as part of the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum's performance series. The Studio Performance Space is located at 1107 Greenacre Ave. in West Hollywood. The Forum may be reached at 213-666-5495.

In other Forum events, on Aug. 17, Steven Corbin, author of *No Easy Place To Be* and contributor to *Breaking Ice,* will be the guest at the group's Black Lesbian and Gay Writers Workshop. On Sept. 21 the writers workshop will host Larry Duplechan, author of *Eight Days a Week, Blackbird* and *Tangled Up in Blue.* Director/Playwright/Actor Brian Freeman at "Pomo Afro Homos" presented the kick-off workshop on July 13.

BLK VEIL

Obituaries are published free of charge. They are accepted from funeral directors, families, lovers, friends and AIDS service organizations. Include your name, address and phone number for our records. We prefer to write the notice ourselves from the details you provide. If known, include the deceased's principal city of residence, correct legal name, any nicknames or pseudonyms by which they were known in the community, dates of birth and death as well as locations of birth and death. In addition, include all relevant biographical and professional data in both early and later life. Don't assume any detail or accomplishment is too small to include, Although, we edit notices to not more than eight lines, it is better to have too much information than too little. We can provide information gathering forms on request.

DR. REGINALD D. BANKS, 39, born Sept. 25, 1951, died April 29, 1991 of complications related to AIDS. Banks held a B.S. from Howard University and a D.D.S. from the Meharry School of Medicine. After completing his schooling, the new dentist moved to Los Angeles. He became an active member at the first AME Church and was awarded the FAME Award. He was also recognized in 1983 as Man of Distinction-Dentistry for Children. He served on the board for the Museum of African-American Art.

HOWARD BENSON, born in 1946, died March 14, 1991 just two days before he was to reach 45, as reported in the *Bay Area Reporter.* He was 44. Benson is survived by many friends.

DEXTER FREEMAN, died April 11 in Santa Monica, Calif. Freeman was an actor, playwright, director and producer. As president of the Professional Actors League, Freeman was an activist for many years in advocating for better working conditions in Equity Waiver theaters. He founded the Staircase Company and Workshop and was co-founder of MET Theatre.

RUDOLF GARDNER, born June 5, 1955, died March 14, 1991 at the age of 35 of complications associated with AIDS, according to the *Bay Area Reporter.* Gardner, after a seven-year term with the United States Navy, worked as a civilian in the Navy Department. Most recently he worked with the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps at the University of California, Berkeley.

CHARLES EDWIN GARNER, 44, died March 8, of complications related to AIDS, as reported in the *Washington Blade.* Garner, a native Philadelphian, established himself in Washington, D.C., where he was employed as a professional hairstylist. To prepare for his career, Garner traveled to London to study with Vidal Sasson. In 1967, he was honorably dischared from the United States Army after having served two years.

CORNELIUS WESLEY GILBERT, died April 26, of complications associated with AIDS. Gilbert, 36, was born Jan. 29, 1955 in Los Angeles where he lived and worked. He received a B.S. from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1977. Upon graduation, he worked for the Los Angeles County Department of Social Services for a number of years. He was also employed by Amtrak. Gilbert traveled extensively throughout Europe and Africa.

KEVIN PETER HALL, 35, born in Pittsburgh, Penn., died at home in Los Angeles on April 10 of HIV-related pneumonia. The 7-foot-2 actor was most well known for his recent portrayals in the role of bigfoot in both the film and television series of *Harry and the Hendersons.* Hall also appeared in *227, Misfits of Science, Shannon's Deal* and played an alien for both of the *Predator* films. Hall was posthumously outed by both the *Globe* and the *National Enquirer.* He is survived by his wife, Alaina Reed.

CHIP LaGRANGE, died April 4 in New Orleans of AIDS related complications according to *Seattle Gay News.* LaGrange was actively working with the New Orleans AIDS Task Force, the annual Candlelight Memorial and the PWA Coaltion. He frequently addressed audiences on AIDS-phobia and homophobia in his work. He is survived by his two children, other family and friends.

WILLIAM THOMAS "BILL" SCALES JR., born Jan. 10 in Miss., spent his childhood and early adult life in St. Louis. After moving to San Francisco in 1968 he was employed by Pacific Gas and Electric Co. His many interests included traveling, decorating and working on his customized van. In August 1990, Scales returned to St. Louis where, according to the *Bay Area Reporter,* he died March 12 of complications related to AIDS. He was 48.

TIMOTHY L. STEPHENS III, 33, died March 11 from a pulmonary embolism. Stephens, a graduate of Gallaudet University with a degree in economics, worked for the D.C. Bureau of Vital Statistics. He was also employed in other accounting positions. Stephens had great interest in shopping and traveling, spending considerable time in Hawaii and Florida.

LAGADU

"The purpose of LAGADU is to create and maintain a safe environment for lesbians and gays of African descent in order to share our experiences, strengths, and hopes; to provide direction for our futures; to sustain visibility, and to give voice to our long held silence."

LAGADU was established January 21, 1989 primarily as a social support group for Black lesbians and gays in San Diego. Through the process of self-empowerment, we have committed ourselves to developing programs that would address the specific socio-political and economic needs of Black lesbians and gays. Within LAGADU, we have committes focused on workshops, and more. The LAGADU agenda/program also includes rap groups, a newsletter, archival gathering, a speaker's bureau, and referral and information services.

As LAGADU grows our influence and the impact we are able to make on society-at-large also grows. There will come a day when lesbians and gays of African descent will be able to stand proud wherever they are. We are lesbians and gays of African descent...united. Our very ouls are dependent upon making that identity manefiest.

For more information regarding LAGADU, please write to P.O. Box 620448, San Diego, CA 92162.

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BLK PEOPLE

NEW YORK **Gale Jackson, Samuel Delany, Cheryl Clarke, Bill Wright, Essex Hemphill, Larry Duckette, Assotto Saint, Roy Gonsalves** and **Jacqueline Woodson** were featured in a benefit for Other Countries June 9.

NEW YORK **Jewelle Gomez** and **Assotto Saint** were among those reading excerpts from their work at the dedication ceremonies of the Pat Parker/Vito Russo Center Library in New York June 6.

SAN FRANCISCO **Dr. Marjorie Hill, Pomo Afro Homos, Marlon Riggs** and **Rev. Carl Bean** were four of the 22 "Heros" identified by the *San Francisco Sentinel* in its Gay Pride Issue.

BALTIMORE Mayor **Kurt Schmoke** joined 6,000 others in this year's AIDSWalk June 9.

WASHINGTON **Kevin Dickerson** and **Kenneth Hawley** made it official in a holy union ceremony last month at Friend's Restaurant. They honeymooned in Nassau.

LOS ANGELES **Dionne Warwick** was among those in the audience as **Dr. Wilbert C. Jordan** was named "Outstanding Brother 1991" by Rue's House during their "Brothers: The Second Show" fundraiser.

WASHINGTON **Sabrina Sojourner** has been named director of racial diversity programming for the National Organization for Women. She is also a board member of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

NEW YORK The final issue of *Outweek*, July 3, featured profiles of **Lynette Rivera** of New York, **Carl Andrews** of Michigan, **Michael Woods** of North Carolina and **Rogelio Parris** of New York.

TAMPA **Monique Montaine** was crowned Miss Tampa in the 19th annual event. **Mena Darnell** was first runner-up.

"This portion of the BWMT Forum is brought to you by those delicious Nabisco cookies..."

WASHINGTON **Essex Hemphill, Larry Duckette, Halima Williams, Melvin Tarone Parks, Charles Anderson, Kwame Cumale, Jackie Walker, Michael St. Andress, Samuel Augustus Jennings, Diana Olney-Campbell, Kishma Reaves-Bey, Mickey Fleming** and **Bruce Bossard** were among those on stage at "Renaissance II: Breaking Barriers," the second annual showcase of black lesbian and gay art, culture and performance. Festivities were held May 11 at First Congregational Church.

AUSTIN, Tex. **Jamie Perry** became Miss Gay Austin for 1992 last month topped 11 other entrants. The event was held at the Lizard Lounge.

NEW YORK **Sapphire** was among those reading from their works at "In Our Own Write" held at the Center in March.

RICHMOND, Va. **Regina Diamond** swept past seven contestants to become Ms. Fantastic Entertainer for 1991 in ceremonies held at the Plaza Ballroom March 30. This is the second year for this female impersonator competition.

BROOKLYN **Sapphire, Nicole Breedlove** and **Malkia Cyril** were among those who appeared at "On Fulton Street: a Tribute to Audre Lorde" presented at BAM's Majestic Theater May 19.

WASHINGTON **Yolanda Santiago** was voted president of ENLACE at the group's April elections.

LOS ANGELES **Rev. Carl Bean** was named Presiding Bishop of the Unity Fellowship Movement in ceremonies held May 5.

WASHINGTON **Isaiah Pool** was named executive director of LifeLink in May. Pool, a *Washington Times* reporter for eight years, is active with Faith Temple.

SAN FRANCISCO **John Eric Teamer** resigned from the National Association of Black and White Men Together effective at the end of the group's June convention. He cited health reasons.

MINNEAPOLIS **Derek Johnson**, 18, was profiled in *Twin Cities Gaze* as an example of today's youth "growing up after Stonewall."

ORLANDO **Keiron Lee** and **Simone Givens** came in second runner-up in the Mr. and Miss Parliament House competitions held in May.

HARLEM **Spike Lee** donated $100,000 to Hale House, a hospice for HIV positive children addicted to drugs.

FORT LAUDERDALE **Stephen Stone** came in second runner-up in the 1991 Mr. Drummer Contest for South Florida. He was sponsored by the Fallen Angel Leather Shop.

NEW YORK **Audre Lorde** was released from Lenox Hill Hospital June 18, once again triumphing in her battle against cancer.

LAS VEGAS **Joyce Hunter** was a keynote speaker at the Desert and Mountain States Lesbian and Gay Conference June 6-9.

SAN FRANCISCO **Jewelle Gomez** and **Linda Tillery** were among the performers at "Lush Voices," a benefit for the National Center for Lesbian Rights June 28. Gomez

read from her works at Lammas in D.C. May 11.

LOS ANGELES **Celester Eteocles Paul Drayden** and **Ricky Santos** were joined in holy union by Dan Smith at West Hollywood Presbyterian Church June 29.

WASHINGTON **Alice Walker,** author of *Her Blue Body Everything We Know* read from her works at Lammas May 12.

WASHINGTON **Rose Fennell** of Lambda Rising spoke about gay literature past and present on Fairfax Cable Channel 10 in April.

SAN FRANCISCO Musicians **Judith Casselberry** and **Jacque DuPreé** performed May 25 at Mission High School to benefit the Women's Building.

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. **Dr. Marjorie Hill,** director of New York's Office for the Lesbian and Gay Community, addressed the North East Lesbian and Gay Students Association March 2.

CHICAGO **Essex Hemphill** and **Larry Duckette** brought "So Many Dreams" to the Randolph Street Gallery in March. While in Chitown, Hemphill read and signed books at People Like Us Bookstore.

LONDON **Amir, Jenessa, Martin Patrick, Tracey Anderson, Dominique Legendre, Mark Holnes and Michelle Warsama** created a "Black Lesbian and Black Gay Cafe" June 30 as part of Gay Pride Week.

ALEXANDRIA, Va. **Audre Lorde** gave the lead interview in "Sound Print," a nationally syndicated radio documentary series. The celebrated author spoke about her book, *The Cancer Journals.*

SAN FRANCISCO Dancer and choreographer **Ben Carter** presented new works at the Footwork in June.

WASHINGTON **James Mercer,** associate director of the D.C. Office of Human Rights, resigned stating, according to the *Washington Blade,* that he was "no longer being used effectively."

NEW YORK In Gay Men of African Descent elections held last month, **Anthony Horne** and **Colin Robinson** were voted co-chairs, and **Joe Pressley** was voted executive director.

SAN DIEGO **Laura Irene Wayne** won $250 in the 1991 Pat Parker Memorial Poetry Competition with her poem "A Sister Gone." The contest is sponsored by Woman in the Moon Publications.

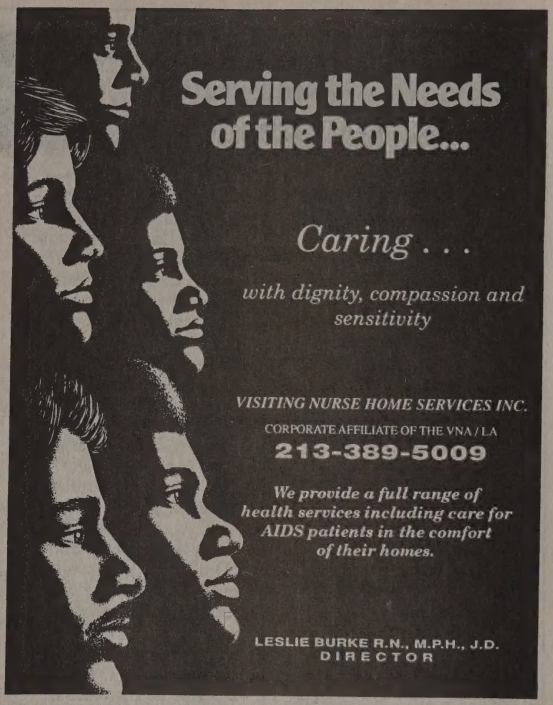
NEW YORK **Michael Marlowe** and **Wayne Philip Watson** were united in holy union on the nationally-syndicated *Donahue* show May 16. **Clinton Page** was best man.

MILWAUKEE **Basia** was named Miss Black Gay Milwaukee in April. **Ivana Black** and **Kelvin** were named Miss and Mr. Black Gay Wisconsin in May.

ATLANTA **Patrick Bell,** one of the founders of the African American Lesbian and Gay Alliance, was profiled in the June 20 issue of *Southern Voice.*

NEW YORK The spring/summer issue of *Outfront* included photos of all members of the Mayor's Police Council on Lesbian and Gay Issues along with a brief bio. Among those included were **Dr. Marjorie Hill, Chezia Carraway, Marcus Hill, Regina Shavers, Sandra Lowe** and **Colin Robinson.**

ARLINGTON, Va. Former North Carolina Democratic Senate nominee **Harvey Gantt** thanked the lesbian and gay community for its support at a Human Rights Campaign Fund luncheon in May.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BLK ARTS

THEATER

Norman Is That You

EBONY SHOWCASE

The Ebony Showcase Theater, the oldest black theater in the United States, is presenting the 20th Anniversary revival of *Norman Is That You,* to continue indefinitely at the theater. A huge hit that ran from 1971-78 at the Ebony, it was written by Ron Clark and Sam Bobrick and starred John Amos in the role that launched his career.

Originally the play focused on how a Jewish family dealt with the discovery that their son is gay. Nick and Edna Stewart, founders of the Ebony, switched it to a black family whose gay son is living with a white male lover. Lasting for only 12 performances on Broadway, with Stewart's adaption, it became one of L.A.'s longest running plays.

The revival comes while the Ebony Showcase Theater and Cultural Arts Center has been going through considerable financial difficulty. Several years ago structual reinforcement was required to bring the theater in line with earthquake safety standards. The theater never recovered from the debt and must satisfy a $150,000 note to stave off foreclosure.

A fundraising drive was initiated and since the first distress call went out, the Stewarts have received $25,000 from Quincy Jones, $10,000 from Time-Warner Communications, $2,500 from Barbara Walters and husband Merv Adelson, $7,500 from a benefit performance at the theater by Eartha Kitt, and a pledge of $2,000 from San Francisco Mayor Diane Feinstein, following a personal appearance at the fundraising kick-off three months ago.

In addition to John Amos and Eartha Kitt, some of the performers who began their careers or have entertained at the Ebony include Dorothy Dandridge, Isabel Sanford, Arsenio Hall, Robert Townsend and Sherman Hemsley, who is preparing an upcoming show. Among the current cast members, Elma V. Jackson starred in the original *Norman* and is reprising her role as the mother.

"Things are starting to turn around for us now. Bringing back *Norman* from our heyday will set the right tone for the theater's revival as well," said Nick Stewart.

MUSIC
by D. J. Marius

Mica Paris

"CONTRIBUTION"
(Island)

Twenty-one year old South London native Mica Paris steps out in a different direction on this project, her second release. The album's sound is much closer to the feeling of the street, unlike her first album *So Good,* more of a pop-oriented product. Co-produced by Camus Celli and Andres Levin, two young, little known musicians from Brooklyn, the album yields some excellent production work. Other fine musicians who show up on the album include Will Downing, former Chic guitarist Nile Rodgers and New York-based rapper Rakim (on the title cut).

Much of the music here would fit well in the club scene, while never overpowering Paris' impressive vocal abilities. Some jamin' cuts include "Just To Be With You," "Truth & Honesty," and the powerful ballad "I Can't Stop Loving You." One of the album's strongest tracks, "South of the River," highlights Paris' sensuous voice, mixed with infectiously funky beats.

Keith Washington

"MAKE TIME FOR LOVE"
(Qwest/Warner Bros)

Sure to be called an overnight success, this excellent singer has toured with the Dramatics, and done studio work with the likes of George Clinton, the Jacksons and Miki Howard. His debut album definitely reminds you that romantic song stylists have not disappeared. Washington has a way with a song that smoothes the listener into a very enjoyable musical experience.

The album's passionate, sentimental first single, "Kissing You," is catching on quickly, and making Washington a star in the process. His movie-star good looks certainly don't hurt the cause! "I love to sing live," says the Detroit native. "I'd love to get out there and let the people see what I'm all about." This is one performer certain to please a wide range of audiences.

A strong debut overall, be sure to check out "All Night," "Closer," and the album's title cut "Make Time For Love." We are sure to hear much more from this exceptional new talent in the very near future.

Lisa Fischer

"SO INTENSE"
(Elektra)

Although you may remember her duet with Teddy Pendergrass, "Glad To Be Alive," you're certain to be affected by this debut album. Fischer has learned her craft well, having toured with Luther Vandross for almost eight years, and the Rolling Stones. A talented songwriter as well, she has also worked with Dionne Warwick and Chaka Khan.

Fischer's voice catches you off guard, and commands you with its passion and emotion. An excellent example of this is the album's first single, "How Can I Ease The Pain." Accompanied by a beautifully shot, erotically charged video (she is *wearing* that dress!), the song showcases Fischer's ability to wrap her voice around each lyric. The uptempo "Save Me" also delivers an emotional charge, and will probably keep dance floors packed. Other solid cuts include the title cut, "So Intense," and the wonderful "Last Goodbye."

In addition to Luther's production touches, Fischer gets some help on the boards from Narada Michael Walden and Arif Mardin. The result is a self-assured debut and a fantastic collection of songs. And the emergence of a major new talent.

Will Downing

"A DREAM FULFILLED"
(Island)

On this, the third album from Will Downing,

we have a musical event in the making. Long respected as a song stylist, Downing ventures more into jazz territory here than on his previous releases, and with incredible results. "I went back to my roots," says Downing. "I grew up listening to jazz and I was born when soul music was at its height." Interestingly enough, Downing has established quite a following in Great Britain (much like Alexander O'Neal), but has yet to generate the same level of popularity in his native U.S.

Acknowledging musical influences such as Aretha Franklin, Luther Vandross, Anita Baker and Donny Hathaway, Downing's clean delivery and sophisticated singing style immediately take you back to the era of "real" singers. His amazing cover of Angela Bofill's "I Try" is garnering much airplay, and is just one of several listening pleasures. Adding more excellence to this melodic outing are an impressive lineup of producers and musicians, including Barry Eastmond, Omar Hakim, Jonathan Butler, Kevin Eubanks and Vincent Henry.

Don't miss the album's best ballad, "No Love Intended," or the jazz jewel "Something's Going On," in addition to an excellent cover of Paul Davis' "I Go Crazy." This is music that would make for an enjoyable live performance, but until you get that opportunity, this CD is a must-have for your collection!

Jon Lucien

"LISTEN LOVE"
(Mercury)

Referred to by many as the "Architect of Aural Seduction," Jon Lucien continues on the mellow tip with his first album for major label Mercury. Long famous as an international performing and recording artist, composer and arranger, Lucien had several hits in the 70s. His distinctive tenor-baritone has also been featured in TV and radio commercials for Diet Seven Up, Exxon, Burger King and U.S. Virgin Islands, among others.

A native of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, Lucien has a deep, soothing voice that is very unique and hard to ignore. It caresses love songs totally and leaves an indelible impression (give a laid-back listen to "Mysteries," a great duet with Brazilian singer Joyce, and the softly romantic "Love Me"). His Caribbean heritage influences his music, flowing through almost every song.

A more commercial, crossover feel adds to the romance on "You Don't Need Me," and the album's first single "Sweet Control," a perfect fit for the 'quiet storm' radio format. For those with love on their minds, and a taste for international musical influences, this album most definitely deserves a listen.

Sissy Man Blues

Various Artists
(Jass)

An interesting set of risque blues standards, this compilation on independent Jass Records is subtitled "25 Authentic Straight and Gay Blues & Jazz Vocals." Huh?

Classics with titles like "The Boy in the Boat," "I'm a Mighty Tight Woman," and "Anybody Here Want to Try My Cabbage?" trace the essence of jazz and blues back to the smoky honky tonks of New Orleans, Chicago and New York. The connection of the music to homosexuality is also explored in the well written liner notes by jazz writer Chris Albertson. A fascinating parallel is drawn between what some called "deviant" lifestyles, and this vibrant, sensual style of music.

The music ends up being most important, next to the times and events that created it. Songs like "It's Tight Like That" and "Shave 'Em Dry" recall an era of freer attitudes and less constrictions. Including such artists as Sippie Wallace, Bessie Jackson and Ma Rainey, blues and other adventurous music fans will find that this compilation has much to offer.

MUSIC

The Divas: Simply Singing

MINORITY AIDS PROJECT

It was a night of Divas like can only happen in Hollywood. "The Divas: Simply Singing!" benefit concert for the Minority AIDS Project was a who's who of black women in entertainment: two dozen actresses, singers and comediennes performing at the Masonic Temple before an audience that paid upwards of $250 a seat.

Hosted by Sheryl Lee Ralph, the evening spotlighted each entertainer singing a single song at the grand piano, with an anthem "Simply We Sing," performed by all of the assembled Divas.

The performers included Debbie Allen, Diahann Carroll, Leata Gallaway, Marilyn McCoo, Freda Payne, Dianne Reeves, Brenda Russell, Liz Torres, Marsha Warfield and Mary Wilson.

Sheryl Lee Ralph said, "During the past ten years, I had lost many beloved and talented friends due to HIV/AIDS."

The Rev. Carl Bean, founder of MAP, added while expressing his gratitude for Ralph's efforts, that the concert had come about because Ralph had been filming on location and had missed the Coming Home for Friends concert last fall, thinking up the Divas concert at a Kwaanza celebration honoring Dionne Warwick.

"The funds will come to us to better operate and manage," Rev. Bean told BLK.

Ralph produced the concert with David Coury. Coury also wrote "While I'm Around," especially for this evening, performed by Ralph and the Next of Kin Choir.

BOOKS

Blacks Get Literary Awards

The third annual Lambda Literary Awards were held May 31 in New York, to give the most prestigious acknowledgement within the lesbian and gay literary community. The gala banquet announcing the awards is held in conjunction with the American Booksellers Association Convention.

Cherry Mahanji was honored for her novel, *Her,* published by the Aunt Lute Foundation, receiving both the Lambda Literary Award for a Lesbian Debut, and the Ferro-Grumley Award for outstanding Lesbian and Gay Fiction.

Muhanji, a grandmother and co-author of *Tight Spaces,* which won the 1987 Before Columbus Book Award, was one of the two big winners that night. Among the other lesbian and gay writers of color to be honored were Gloria Anzaldua, who tied for the Lesbian Small Press Book Award for her *Making Face, Making Soul,* and Michael Nava, who won for Gay Men's Mystery with his newest book, *Howtown.*

Among the judges for the Lambda Literary Awards Jewelle Gomez, Jorget Harper, Craig Harris, Terri Jewell and Dr. Ron Simmons.

Some callers claim:

"...I'm 10½..."

(When Push Comes to Shove,
Some Claims Stretch the Imagination.)

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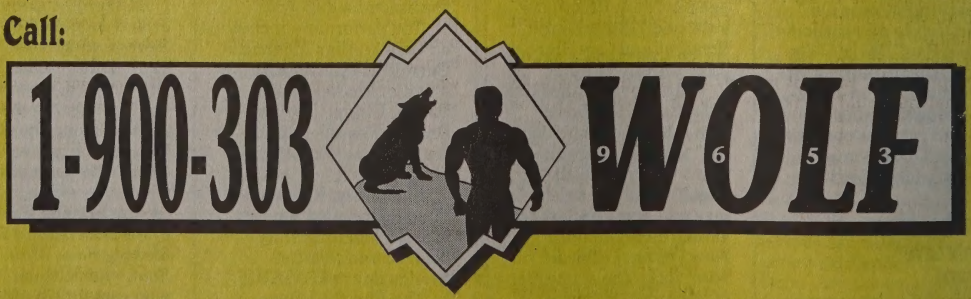

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Rules of the Game

by Emanuel

Life is hard. Life is complex. If a lesbian and a gay man both reach a closed door at the same time, who properly opens the door? An invited guest shows up to your formal dinner wearing levis and an ACT-UP T-shirt. What do you say? In a bathhouse, you observe a black friend who has nothing good to say about white men or interracial relationships in the throes of passion with a GWM. What do you do? With this issue, BLK begins a new column to help sort out these quandries. Your own questions are welcome.

So you want a boyfriend, eh?

I was standing in a legendary club in the 'hood, "rockin" to the best music in town—jheri curl juice, sweat, finger snaps, and verbal "Miss Things" flying through the air when this nice looking, casually dressed young man walked up to me and asked, "Who you wit?"

I didn't quite understand what he said at first because I was so amazed that I could hear anything at all. You know, this is the club with the speakers that sit right in your ear.

I said, "I beg your pardon."

And he repeated, "Who you wit?"

I said, "No one."

He asked, "You didn't come wit nobody?"

I said, "No."

He asked, "When are you leavin?"

With this question, I became a little suspicious of his intentions. I said, "Well, I'm just out to listen to the music and dance a little." Before he could get the words, "Would you like to dance?" completely out of his mouth, I excused myself to the patio.

After a moment, I realized homeboy was simply looking for some "lovin" that night. No introduction, no style, no tact, no class and definitely no action from me. If he had been "drop dead fine" he would not have gotten as much as a dance out of me.

Gentlemen—and that is what most of us are—what has happened to the class that we as gay men were once renowned for? I can see why most of the young men I know are still crying the blues because they don't have a boyfriend. Maybe you didn't approach that "potential" the right way the last time.

Did you stand and stare a hole in him before finally giving up? Or did you just go over and stand near him in hopes that he would break the ice with a "hello"? Or was this the one you sent your best friend over to tell him that you like him—as you once again leave the club without so much as a phone number. And, of course, that old bump into him excuse me method doesn't work anymore. Tacky! Tacky! Tacky!

What happened to the old "walk straight up to him and introduce yourself" method? Such as, "Hi, my name is Alan and I wanted to make your aquaintance."

Believe me it works! This has served its purpose quite well for me, and I have never been rejected. Okay, okay, maybe once, but he didn't deserve me anyway. This method will also work well for future prospects.

Example. You have your eyes on two guys in the club and you know you have one in the palm of your hands but you certainly do not want the other one to get away. Just walk up to him and after introductions, tell him something such as, "I hope to see you again very soon." Say something that will make him remember you (instead of that damn staring him down the throat look). This way, you have "put your foot in the door" for a future encounter.

Of course if you're totally blah and void of personality you may have to resort to that old bump, push, excuse me method to make him remember you the next time.

Now you're saying, "but I'm afraid of rejection." I guarantee that rejection will not keep you from waking up the next morning. Being rejected is not the end of your "pick up a man" life.

Of course some of us take rejection very, very personally. Take one of my dear friends, who I'll call Jason. If you reject Jason, you have made an enemy for life. Thank goodness he is nice looking and well mannered so his "rejection button" has not been pushed very often or else half of the guys in town would be his enemy.

On the other hand, there's Mervin, one of my best friends. He has been rejected so many times I suggested that he get the word "reject" tattooed on his forehead.

Now my *best* friend, who I'll call James, thinks he is an old "pro" at picking up guys. He still uses the old stare a "hole in him method." I can remember the time we were in the club and he pointed this guy out that he said liked him, and vice versa. I knew what this meant. James would stare him into submission. Everywhere that guy went James was there to stare the black off of him. I noticed the guy was beginning to get nervous so I asked James to ease up.

James said, "Oh no, I know he likes me."

After about 30 minutes of deep, deep stares (intense Marty Feldman stares) the guy got a nervous, frightened look on his face. He glanced at James as he ran from the club probably scared for his life.

James strutted over to me with this huge boastful smile and said, "I told you he liked me. Didn't you see the way he looked at me before he left the club"?

I just stood there, once again totally stunned by his gigantic, out of whack ego.

Anyway, back to the main subject. Now you're standing there looking good and feeling as happy as a pig in the sunshine. All of a sudden in walks "that one"—you know the kind that puts that funny feeling in your stomach. He notices you and starts walking toward you. Your heart begins to thump faster with every step he makes. After what seems like an eternity, he finally reaches you and softly whispers in your ear, "Hiiiiii, my name is Teddy."

You stand there damn near in a coma because Teddy's breath has just melted that gold stud in your ear, the diamond and part of that purple-green contact in your eye.

Must I elaborate?

"Fellas"! Beer, cigarettes, marijuana, and scotch do not mix with saliva. If you wondered why that "potential" just smiled, backed up abruptly, and walked away, it could have been that dragon breath of yours. We have to watch, or should I say, smell those things before approaching someone.

Gentlemen, it goes back to *think* before going in for the "kill." You don't have to be the finest guy in town to pick someone up. I've seen the "drop dead fine" guys with the "what does he see in him" guys. After a little examination, I realize the drop dead fine guy sees style, intelligence, proper manners, and above all, some *class*. Try it sometimes.

Read My Lips

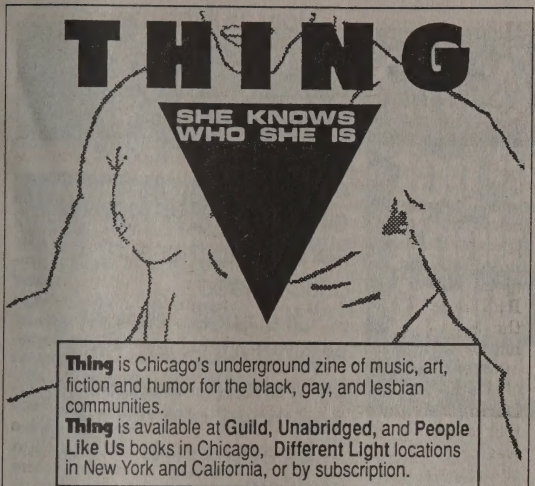
by Preston G. Guider

Among Other Things, the Social Event of the Season

The Queer Nation Party's mayor of Queer Chicago, **Joan Jett Blakk,** who will soon announce her candidacy for president of the United States, has declared her opposition to the nomination of **Judge Clarence Thomas** as an associate justice of the Supreme Court. "**Diana Ross** would have been a better choice," she said. "She's been a Supreme since 1964, and she looks *fabulous* in a long black dress"... **Kevin Jones** celebrated his 26th birthday party at Jewel's Catch One...A court in Mbabane on the African continent has ruled that Swazi women may marry one another. But before you make your travel plans, the ruling apparently applies only to Swazi-born women...If you find yourself looking for something in Nationwide Video's new store on Clarendon in Chicago, one of the best things to see there is **Sheldon Knox**...**Hot Chocolate,** Miss Gay Texas was seen cavorting with **Rachel Wells,** Miss Gay America at the OP in Houston...Gay teenagers at Jordan High in North Long Beach, Calif. were set to have their own "Project 10" counseling program but plans were canceled after the community got all up in arms. School superintendent **E. Tom Giugni,** who opposes Project 10 as well, said that existing high school counselors can be trained to help. And if you believe that, we've got some Florida swamp land for sale to plug up the hole in your head...The newest *Drummer* magazine "Tough Customers" hail from Dallas and include **Coffy, Mr. Ripcord 1989, Hey Cowboy** and **Daddy Floyd.** Our favorite is Coffy with all that chest and all those abs. And he *loves* to shop, too...We're sorry that **Jim Zais,** the openly gay candidate for the Washington, D.C. city council, lost the election, but we're sure that his handsome lover, **Robert Smith,** did his best to comfort him...In a takeoff on an Absolut Vodka ad campaign, a mysterious group called **Outpost** has plastered Manhattan with posters of famous people. Each poster includes a photo of the celebrity, his or her name, and the words, "Absolutely Queer." The campaign includes **Sherman Hemsley, Whitney Houston** and **James Baldwin**...As part of the prefight boasting, **Mike Tyson** promised opponent **Razor Ruddock,** "I'm gonna make you my girlfriend"—whatever that means. Although Tyson publicly subdued Raz, there has been no word of any further events between the two, main or otherwise...**Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe,** or GALZ in the 'Hood, has celebrated its first anniversary. During their gay pride celebration this year, group members took a bicycle ride around Harare, sponsored a gay video week, provided safe sex information and went on a picnic at the Harare Botanical Gardens. Folks from Bulawayo and Mutare participated...A staged reading of *Je Ne Regrette Rien* will be performed Aug. 10 and 11 at the Center on 13th St. in New York. The play is about an unsuspecting mother who comes to visit her closeted gay son who is stricken with AIDS...Over 100 guests celebrated **Rev. Victoria** and **Shirley Lee-Owens's** first anniversary June 23 at the First Woman's Church in L.A., where the Rev. is senior assistant minister. Surrounded by orange and white, the couple were re-unionized in a ceremony performed by **Rev. Crystal Bujol,** the New Jersey-based founding minister of the First Woman's Church. Afterward, a buffet was served consisting of Southern-style barbecue ribs and beans, grilled fish, salads, fruits, champagne punch and sodas. Congrats for the year to come...In a ceremony whose pomp may rival that of **Jewel** and **Rue Thaïs-Williams, Gil Gerald** and **John Sharp** will tie the knot Aug. 31 at the Wilshire Ebell in L.A. Expect this to be *the* event of the social season... AmFar has slapped ten grand in the hands of three D.C. groups which will divide the funds: **D.C. Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gay Men, Us Helping Us** and **Best of Friends**...The *Star* reports that former *Bewitched* star **Dick Sargent** has become romantically involved with **Mark Murray,** a young black man who goes by the name "Arrow." The tabloid describes Arrow as 28, 6 ft. and muscular with a shaven head. "Dick doesn't let Arrow live in his big house," the *Star* said. "Instead, he helped move Arrow into a cottage in West Hollywood, about a 15-minute drive from his home." We called 411 the day the story appeared and got the number for the only "Mark Murray" in West Hollywood. No street address was listed. Boldly, we called. "Hello," said the party on the other end. "Hello, Mark?" we said. "Yes..." said Mark, warily. We said that we were from BLK, but before we could finsh the introduction, Mark Murray had hung up. The number has since been disconnected ...The 1991 **Soloflex** catalog centerspread features two black men. One, clad only in blue shorts and white sneakers, sits astradle one of the company's workout machines, legs wide apart. The other, wearing a blue and white jogging suit, stands a short distance away smiling admiringly ...About 60 people chose to attend a party honoring **Sidney Brinkley,** editor of *BGM* and the new west coast correspondent for the *Washington Blade,* rather than attend the famed San Francisco Josephine Baker Party held the same night. In a Pacific Heights apartment with a terrific view of the city, the mostly male, most black crowd put away 44 bottles of champagne and had a great time doing it.

"What's a clit?"

THING



Thing is Chicago's underground zine of music, art, fiction and humor for the black, gay, and lesbian communities.
Thing is available at **Guild, Unabridged,** and **People Like Us** books in Chicago, **Different Light** locations in New York and California, or by subscription.

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AIDS Project Los Angeles.

We're confronting AIDS on every side. But our first and foremost concern is for those who have Human Immunodeficiency Virus. They're the reason we initially set up our AIDS Hotline in 1982, and soon followed up with a buddy program and counseling.

Of course, people with AIDS need more than just companionship.

They need to understand the disease. That's why we offer guidance on living with AIDS. Updates on insurance issues. Advice on faith and spiritual matters. And counseling on chemical dependencies and other addictive behaviors that often complicate an AIDS diagnosis.

I've always said,

"If I ever got AIDS, I don't know what I'd do."

I was right.

Now as if the mental and physical drain of AIDS isn't enough, there's also the financial drain. So we provide essentials like food, clothing, and dental services to those in critical need.

Of course, the fight against AIDS isn't only between the disease and those who have it.

It's everyone's problem.

That's why we promote public awareness. Try to educate those who feel they don't need it. And demand that the Government of the United States approach AIDS just as it does every other major disease.

At AIDS Project Los Angeles, people discover courage and strength they didn't know they had. But before we can help, they have to do one simple thing.

Call 213-962-1600 and talk to someone who cares.

Having AIDS can be a frightening experience, which is all the more reason it shouldn't be a lonely experience.

AIDS PROJECT LOS ANGELES

AIDS Project Los Angeles would like to gratefully thank the following contributors. Concept and design by Chiat/Day/Mojo, Jim Weinstein, Doug Schumacher and Rich Bess. Production by David Nickel, Patti Rawlins, Tony Jenson, Joe's Type Shop and Reproduction Quality Services. Media Planning by Media Ranch.

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BLK MARKET

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gospel musicians wanted for African-American group. Need lead and bass guitar, keyboards and drum. Call 714-788-9490. (33)

Study of long-term lesbian couples. Been together 2 years or more? You and your partner will fill out an interesting questionnaire which takes under 40 minutes. Research results provided. To participate, call Deborah at 718-398-2248, collect or leave message. Your help is appreciated. (32)

Have bought a car from a car dealer that has advertised in the gay press? We want to ask a few questions. Any dealer. Any gay paper. Done over the phone. You can remain anonymous. Takes about 3 minutes of your time. Call 213-410-0808. Ask for Alan. (32)

Mondo Novo is a new performance project which retells the myth of Christopher Columbus in a contemporary and "queer" way. The piece asks the question: what do the Inquisition, Exiling and Genocide of "impure" people, the advancement of technology, and the search for a New World Order have to do with 1492 and the present? We are casting for: Azeem the Moor, roguish, leading man type, handsome, versatile, late 20s to 40s, person of color, must be able to move well. Queen Isabella/Earthma, powerful woman, sophisticated, late 20s to 40s, person of color, must be able to move well. Info: Rehearsals begin July 22. Four meetings a week (three weekday nights and Sunday afternoon) until opening October 3-12 at Highways Performance in Santa Monica. $100 honorarium. For more info call Matt Silverstein immediately: 213-876-2838. (32)

For black or African-American gays and lesbian Christians who wish to correspond with others, Across the Miles has been created. This correspondence program will enable people to share what God is doing in their lives, spiritual discoveries made, questions regarding scriptural passages or living the life as a Christian, and prayer requests. This program is not a match-making service, but it is possible to meet others through correspondence. Across the Miles is a non-denominational enterprise, and is not affiliated with any established Christian church or religious organization. Those people interested in corresponding should send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Across the Miles, 5217 Hollywood Blvd. #401 Hollywood, CA 90027. Attn: James-Imani. All inquiries will be quickly replied, and all information is kept confidential. (32)

Los Angeles Southwest College free Office Automation Training Program begins Aug. 26, for individuals receiving unemployment benefits or whose unemployment benefits have expired and are still unemployed. The course, which includes learning software WordPerfect 5.1, dBase IV and Lotus 1-2-3, will be offered for 12 weeks, Mon. through Fri. from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Screening will take place at Los Angeles Southwest College every Tues. at 1 p.m. in Building "C," Room 103. The college is located at 1600 W. Imperial Hwy. Applications must demonstrate a basic knowledge of the keyboard, pass a skills test and be interviewed. (32)

Wanted: Sierra Domino Newsletter back issues. Photocopies okay. Willing to pay reasonable fee, costs of photocopying and postage. Need issues 1,3, 5 and 7, and any published after issue 22. Call Alan Bell at 213-410-0808, or write BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. (32)

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ORGANIZATIONS

Singles club forming in San Francisco for African-American gay men who want to meet and date other African-American gay men. BLK Mailbox #140. (33)

Love boys? NAMBLA seeks justice for men and boys interested in consensual relationships. Our monthly Bulletin deatures news, fiction, letters, pictures. Mailed discreetly. Subscribe! $25/year. NAMBLA, Dept. B, Box 174, New York, NY 10018. (32)

Are you atheist? Agnostic? Secular humanist? The gay and lesbian Freethought Forum meets monthly. 213-473-7302. (EE)

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Advertising Salesperson to represent BLK. Work where your income reflects your energy and ability. Experience preferred, but will train the right person. Your own hours. Top commission paid. Women especially encouraged to apply. Call 213-410-0808. Or write BLK, Box 83912, L.A., CA 90083. (32)

Asst. Director for West Hollywood HIV Healthcare Center. Administrative, budgetary, and supervisory experience necessary, computer exp. helpful. Excellent opportunity to work in a position that is high profile in the community. Send resume to: Personnel, GLCSC, 1213 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90038. (32)

Counselor. The nation's only lesbian and gay inpatient chemical dependency treatment center is seeking a skilled CD Counselor. The position requires a B.A. and ICDP certification or eligibility advantageous. If recovering, a minimum of 2 years of verifiable continuous sobriety is required. Must be sensitive to the needs of lesbian/gay patients. Qualified applications send resume to: Joseph Neisen, Program Director, Pride Institute, 14400 Martin Dr., Eden Prairie, MN 55344. (32)

Director of Emotional Support Services. Los Angeles Shanti Foundation is currently seeking qualified candidates for the position of Director of Emotional Support Services. This management position reports directly to the Executive Director, and is responsible for the evaluation, coordination and implementation of all programs within Emotional Support Services. The salary range is $27,000-$30,000 annually. Qualified candidates will have strong supervisory, administrative and grant writing skills, as well as thorough knowledge of HIV issues and human dynamics. B.A. or M.A. in Business or Social Services preferred. For immediate consideration, please send resume and cover letter to: Director Search, Shanti Foundation, 6855 Santa Monica Blvd. #408, Los Angeles, CA 90038 by Aug. 20. No phone calls please. If you have any questions, please contact Mark King at Shanti at 213-962-8197. Thanks.! (32)

Illustrator. If you'd like exposure and you're willing to put in time for almost no pay, call 213-410-0808. Or write BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. Will train the right person. (32)

Inpatient treatment center for lesbians and gay men with chemical dependency. Experience in chemical dependency or psychiatry preferred. Administrative experience desirable, but not essential. Must be sensitive to the needs of the lesbian and gay community. Responsible for supervision of staff, medical evaluations, detoxification, medical quality assurance. Send resume or call Brenda Griffin, Acting Executive Director, Pride Institute, 14400 Martin Dr., Eden Prairie, MN 55344. 800-547-7433. (32)

Manager, Client Services for West Hollywood Healthcare Center. Seeking a nurse with previous D.O.N./healthcare management and HIV clinical experience. Prefer BSN/PHN and bilingual. Exciting opportunity to assist in development of nurse clinician model clinic, est. policies and protocols, staff and pt. education. No nights or weekends or on call. Immed. opening, competitive salary. Send resume to: Personnel, GLCSC, 1213 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90038. (32)

MD + ADM & RN Needed for new Pas. Com. Clinic. PT or retired OK. Bilingual. Call Dr. Jolly 213-664-5000. (32)

CALLS FOR SUBMISSION

Venus Press is seeking single-panel cartoon, strips, and cartoon stories for New Dyke, a book anthology of cartoons by cartoons by, for and bout lesbians. Cartoons can be fantasy, soap opera, humor, sci-fi, feminist satire/politics, explicit sex, stories about growing up, coming out, romance, aging, etc. Deadline Dec. 1, 1991. Send submissions and SASE to Venus Press, 7100 Blvd. E., Guttenberg, NJ 07093. Especially seeking cartoons by lesbians of color. (32)

The Pittsburgh International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival is accepting entries in film and video (8mm, 16mm, 35mm, 1/2", 3/4"). The deadline for entries is Sept. 10. All categories welcome. People of all colors strongly urged to enter. Please send properly labeled entries, inclusive filmography with personal statement, $15 entry fee, and return postage to: PILGFF, Box 9007, Pittsburgh, PA, 15224. Contact: Daniel Schott, 412-362-9462. (32)

Independent filmmaker Ann Alter and writer/researcher Laine Goldman are seeking your honeymoon tales for their new documentary film--horizontal mambo and other honeymoon tales. Funded in part by the Ohio Arts Council and the Center for New Television NEA Regional Fellowship program, this feature-length documentary chronicles the romantic passage of the honeymoon and investigative dynamics of a ritual rarely discussed in professional and/or private life. Co-directors/producers Alter and Goldman are asking individuals and couples to share their honeymoon tales from the traditional to the offbeat. Special attention is being made to contact lesbians and gay men, people of color, the physically challenged and seniors. Alter and Goldman also encourage "honeymoon specialists" to share their insights and theories. Lesbian, gay men, people of color and seniors are encouraged to send inquiries, stories and suggestions to Horizontal Mambo Productions, Box 5657, Athens, OH 45701. (32)

The Multi Media Arts Gallery is looking for work by lesbian and gay photographers for a show that will be held at the gallery during Jan. 1992. The work may be documentary, experimental or fine art. Work that is considered sexist,

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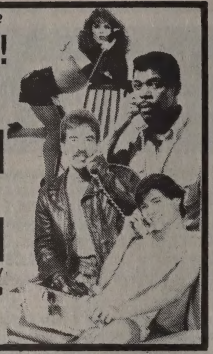

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racist or violent in any way will not be accepted. To have your work reviewed by the gallery director photographers should call 212-966-4080 to set up an appointment. (32)

Submissions are now being accepted for Short Fiction By Women, a new magazine publishing the finest literature by women writers. The magazine needs unpublished short stories, novellas and novel excerpts. All women writers, including lesbians and women of color, are encouraged to submit their work. Stories from both unpublished and published writers will be considered. Want top-quality, strong, original short fiction. A short biography/bibliography of each author will be included. Payment will be based on length and funds available. The magazine will own first serial rights only. Writers should submit one typed, double-spaced manuscript and include a SASE for return of manuscript. Send submissions to: Rachel Whalen, Editor, Short Fiction By Women, Box 1276, Stuyvesant Sta., New York, NY 10009. The first issue will be published in the fall of 1991(32)

Sorority, a new quarterly magazine published by and for gay women, is seeking submissions on subjects of interest to gay women: informative articles, commentaries, profiles, interviews, travel pieces, health issues, short and long fiction, poetry, graphics, drawings, photographs, book reviews, film and video reviews, concert and event reviews, cartoons, drawings, puzzles, community listings and information about upcoming activities. Submissions from marginalized members of our community are particularly welcomed. Maximum word count is 7,500, but 5,000 preferred. Submissions on 3-1/2 in. disk in IBM WordPerfect with hard copy backup preferred, but can accepted ASCII format on either 3-1/2 or 5-1/4 in. disks. Typed-only submissions also accepted. All artwork (including photographs) should be in black and white, should not exceed 7-1/4 x 4 in. with either vertical or horizontal layout, and should be camera-ready if possible. Reductions to fit the specified dimensions are acceptable. Include a S.A.S.E. No material that is racist, sexist, ageist, ableist or homophobic in content will be published. Sorority, 1170 Bay St. #110, Toronto, ON M5S 2B4, Canada. 416-462-6665. (32)

At the Crossroads, a new visual, performing and literary journal for women artists of African descent, is seeking submissions of written and visual art. Manuscripts of poetry, short stories, journal entries, experimental writing, radio plays, theatre, interviews, screenplays, transcribed performance pieces, reviews, essays and all other forms of creative and analytical writing are welcome. We want submissions of visual art, including line drawings, sketches, graphics, illustrations, photographs, murals, mixed media, printing, collage, sculpture, quilts, beadwork, textile art, etc. Send black and white photographs or photocopies of work. Do not send your original copy of art work. All submissions should be accompanied by a bio, brief statement about the work and any other relevant information. At the Crossroads is especially interested in receiving submissions from women in the Maritimes region and writers who have not yet been published. Manuscripts that do not arrive with a self-addressed, stamped envelope will not be returned, so send copies only. All photographs will be returned. Send to: Attn. Karen Augustine, At the Crossroads: A Journal for Women Artists of African Descent, Box 317, Sta. P, Toronto, ON M5S 2S8, Canada. (32)

Women with immune system and other systemic disorders--rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, scleroderma, endometriosis, chronic fatigue, multiple sclerosis, chronic asthma, allergies, environmental illness. Submissions sought for anthology of women's experiences living and coping with these illnesses. We are looking for inspiring, cautionary or everyday stories about how your illness has affected your work, family, children, partner, support system, sexuality, self-image, finances, sense of security, physical abilities, spirituality. How has your life changed? What have you learned? For information and Writer's Guidelines send self-addressed stamped envelope to: Canaries in the Mine, 75 Hartford St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Deadline: Dec. 1, 1991. Contributions by women of color especially welcome. (32)

An anthology of writing and artwork by Asian/Pacific lesbians is being compiled by Anne Mi Ok Bruining and Sharon Lim-Hing of Asian Lesbians of the East Coast. The genres are poetry, essays, short stories, autobiography and any artwork that can be reproduced in a book. Themes include but are not limited to the following: identity, sexuality, politics/social constructs, relationships, work/professions/careers, life cycles, disabilities and activities and interests. The deadline is Dec. 15, 1991, and submissions should be sent to Anne Mi Ok Bruining, 41 Shaw Rd., Little Compton, RI 02837. (32)

Celebration Theatre is seeking submissions for its second Open and Out Festival slated for Sept. 13-29 at the new theatre, 7051 Santa Monica Blvd., Hollywood. projects should be easily staged for workshop productions/readings and works about lesbians and people of color are especially encouraged. Submissions should be received by July 15 and sent to John Callahan, Celebration Theatre, 4470-107 Sunset Blvd. #353, L.A., CA 90027. (32)

FOR SALE

Skins, the fanzine for kinky uncut men. Free ads. Sample copy: $4 and statement of age. CB&V, Box 97694, Las Vegas, NV 89193. (39)

Exclusively created for black skin: based on ancient egyptian formulas of rejuvenation our products are made from state of the art natural ingredients. Send $15 for samples and product list to: Temptations! Box 1227, New York, NY 10018. (32)

Gay magazines. Pack of 6 hot used magazines. Just $15. P&H, Inc. Send

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■ **Complete and sign the following. None of this information will appear in your ad.**

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State_____ Zip_____

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■ I am an adult of legal voting age and consent to the placing of my ad in BLK. I understand that the Blk Publishing Company is in no way responsible for any transactions between myself and any persons I contact through its publications.

Signed_____

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■ **Personal ads** of 8 words or fewer are free if this form is used and your ad is sent by mail. No duplicates or copies. More than 8 words, the rate is 40 cents per additional word. Abbreviations are unnecessary since you are charged by the word.

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■ **All other ads** take the rate of 40 cents per word.

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BLK Classifieds
Box 83912
Los Angeles, California 90083-0912

The Rules

■ Deadline: First Friday of the month of publication.

■ Ads received after deadline will appear in the following issue.

■ Open account billing available on approved credit. Terms: Net 10 EOM. Minimum charge is $15. *Credit must be approved in advance.*

■ **Rules and regulations.** *A word is any group of letters or numbers with a space on either side of it.* Free ads may run a maximum of three times, then must be renewed. We reserve the right to reject, rewrite or edit ads including those that advertise or solicit sexual acts considered unsafe by current AIDS criteria. Telephone numbers in ads must be verified prior to publication at a charge of $3 (within California $1). If a number has been previously verified by BLK, attach an ad containing the number to your new ad. Advertiser's complete name, address and authorizing signature must accompany ad. This information is confidential and will not appear in your ad.

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■ You may place your ad by telephone and charge it to Visa, MasterCard or American Express if your order totals $15 or more.

■ Call toll-free 800-TRUE-BLK anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Tell the computer which credit card you have, the card number, expiration date and what you want your ad to say.

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■ Completely free ads may only be placed by mail.

■ Ads that are not completely free may be paid by check, Visa, MasterCard or American Express. Do not send cash.

■ Send to: BLK Classifieds, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912.

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■ Minimum for credit card billing is $15 whether by phone or by mail.

Name of credit card_____ Expires_____

Credit card number_____

Your Ad

■ **Print clearly what you want to appear in your ad. Use a separate sheet if you need more space.**

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_____ words at 10¢ (employment ads)	$_____
Cost to run ad one month	$_____
Number of times you want ad to run _____	
Total cost of ads	$_____
Phone verification at $3 (within CA $1)	$_____
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One-year subscription at $18 to BLK	$_____
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check or M.O. to Island Marketing, 127 S. Shore Dr., Island Lake, IL 60042, State you are 21. (37)

BLK T-shirts, satin jackets, baseball caps, sweatshirts, key tags, back issues, note cards, etc. now available mail order. Write: BLK Mail and Femail Store Catalog, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. Or call 800-TRUE-BLK, anytime 24 hours a day, seven days a week. (TF)

MASSEURS

Attractive, well-built guy (29, 5'7", 140#), experienced, offers deep thorough relaxing massage to other in-shape guys by candlelight, table, $40 in West Hollywood, $? out. Greg, 213-650-6265. Calls verified. (E)

Randy Cochran. 818-997-3776. L.A.'s hot top black studman. Hung huge, yet versatile. 28, 5'9", 160 lbs., with a tight smooth body. 24-hour, in-out sessions. $125-$200/hr. Video titles include "Black Attack," "Heatwaves," "Black Force" and many more. Visits are in person...Not associated with 976-WOLF. Safe sex okay. (E)

The Real McCoy. Very handsome Italian professional, 29, great body, offers custom-tailored 5-star bodywork to the discerning man. Atmosphere, style, technique and more. Quite simply...the best! 213-288-6800. (E)

WOMEN'S PERSONALS

SBM, 40, very dominant arty type, likes straight, submissive bi-ladies, lesbians. No phonies, drugs. I'm hot and kinky. Hurry! BLK Mailbox #124. (E)

Hampton Roads, Virginia area. Single, black bisexual female, professional, 31, in search of feminine lesbian or bi-female for relationship varied interests. No fats, drugs, or marrieds. Photo and note appreciated to BLK Mailbox #121. (E)

Black woman, honest, clean, intelligent, professional, financially secure, optimistic, adventurous, spiritual, lesbian! Send descriptive letter, photo, etc. San Diego. BLK Mailbox #139. (32)

GBF, 25, graduate student, eclectic interests, multi-talented, new to the life, looking to connect with other GBFs from all over, especially Atlanta, Toledo/Detroit, D.C. for friendship and a sense of community. Will answer all. BLK Mailbox #132. (E)

BF, 26, student, not looking for romance through this ad. However, I would like to exchange postcards, short notes or long letters with women from all over. I live in Detroit. BLK Mailbox #107. (E)

Soulful, diamond in the raw, 19, African-American ISO lasting friendships with multi-cultured, positive lesbian sisters USA/abroad (18-?). Will answer all. Maria, 329 Childress Lane, Flora, MS 39071-9740. (E)

Fluffy, feminine, early 40s, fun-loving, witty, sensitive, romantic, who appreciates nature, intimacy, looking for independent butch. I am 5'7½", sexy, plump. Seek friendship first. Who knows what can happen? BLK Mailbox #115. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS INTERNATIONAL

Canadian GWM, 34, 5'9", 160#, attractive, masculine, fit, blue eyes, dark blond hair, beard, university student, enjoys reading, movies, videos, pen pals, swimming, outdoors, travel, seeks friends, any race or age, anywhere. T.H., Box 46612, Stn. G, Vancouver, BC V6R 4G8, Canada. (E)

Attractive Ghanaian 23, seeks white and black penpals 20-30 years. Write: Jack, Box 3879, Accra, Ghana, West Africa. (E)

Attractive GWM, 38, 5'11", 165 lbs, dark hair, green eyes, moustache, hairy, well-built, Greek active, seeks big, muscular, masculine, Greek passive black or latino friends. Will travel. Visitors welcome to Paris. Photo please. P. Atlan, 8 Passage Lathuile, 75018 Paris, France. (E)

GWM, teddy-bear, seeks dominant black male tops for intimate friendship and fun. Doug, #103-4800 Arbutus, Vancouver, BC V6J 4A5. 604-263-3991. (TF)

MEN'S PERSONALS—CA

Northern California

BM, 41, 5'8", 145, slim attractive, health-conscious, wants to pen-pal with other slim health-conscious black males around the same age. BLK Mailbox #141. (35)

WM, new to east bay, 43, 185, 6'3", HIV+, non-smoker. Want to meet BM for friendship, love, and/or versatile safe sex. Box 56260, Hayward, CA 94545. (32)

GBM, 33, bottom, seeks top bi or GBM, discreet, bright. Box 70571, Oakland, CA 94612. (33)

San Diego Area

Happy, healthy, and adventurous GBM, seeking sincere monogamous relationship with same. Serious replys only. Send photo with intro letter and phone number if interested. BLK Mailbox #136. (32)

New GBM to desert area. Seeking new friends possibly more. Call Bob, 619-329-7522. (32)

Are you 300 lbs., over 40, any color, reliable friend in San Diego and wish to meet sincere Italian 68, slender, endowed (6"), healthy and educated! Call 619-291-8966. (32)

White man seeks extra hung top. Tom, 619-262-6046. (34)

White hunk, 30, exhibitionist, seeks same. Box 33361 San Diego, CA 92163. (34)

Free! Fone fun for all cummers. A.C. 619-292-1922. Anytime. (E)

White boy seeks hung tops. Write Box 3411, La Mesa, CA 91944. (E)

BM, Palm Springs area needs beginner BM for work-out buddy, maybe more. 619-324-5450, answer machine. (E)

Los Angeles Area

Just wanna have fun and beyond. Bi-BM wants to meet women and men. Ken. 213-465-8968. Serious only. (32)

Handsome black man, 35, 195#, well-built, who likes to workout with weights and jog on a daily basis, would like to meet honest, sincere person for friendship, white or hispanic, who loves the outdoors and some sports. Rod, 213-938-2004 before 11 p.m. (34)

Very hot butch blond bottom bodybuilder, 33, 5'6", 145, hot throat and ass, seeks dominant top black man. BLK Mailbox #137. (32)

GWM, 40s, seeks (1) super hung blk top man and (1) super hung blk bottom man for hot and safe 3-way sex. Write to Allen, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd. #109-332, West Hollywood, CA 90045. (34)

GBM wanted. Any age. For loving companionship, relationship. Me: GWM 50s, 6', 179 lbs., affectionate, HIV-. Will, 818-362-2022. (33)

If you could date an athletic attractive man, 24, you'd want to do it, correct? If polite and under 25, introduce yourself with a note! Box 3516 Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90274. (33)

Hot P.R. seeking one in-shape butch blk/Latin hung X-thick. Me: 37, 135#, 5'6". Willie, 213-657-2539. (34)

Fat GBM, 18-30, 250+# sought by GWM. R.A.S., Box 4013 Chatsworth, CA 91313-4013. (36)

Black bodyguard and companion wanted by wealthy GWM, 44, 200#, 8" for night time protection and pleasure on hilltop estate. Guard must be over 6', in shape, (BB pref.) and hung. Guest house, vehicle and salary to right person. Daytimes free. Photo and letter to Guard, Box 91744, City of Industry, CA 91715. (32)

Couple looking safe sex. Box 19543, LAX 90019-0543. (34)

Sexy Oriental TV, 27, wants to collect white jockey shorts. Picture and jockey is a must. You won't be disappointed. BLK Mailbox #138. (32)

Black queen, 38, tits, seeks slender light-skinned black man, thick dick, who is single parent, for dating and romance. I'm into safe sex. Call Nina at 213-480-0008. Please no fats. Must be a masculine gay man who is into queens or must be a bisexual man. Please do not call if you are not into queens. (32)

Extremely handsome, 28, white masculine guy, 6'1", 185#, very athletic, looking for masculine large black guy about my size or bigger. Must be straight-acting. 213-871-5813. (32)

Attractive middle eastern guy, 34, 5'9", 150#, black hair, brown eyes, light-brown skin, trim, masculine, healthy, intelligent, romantic, candlelit, sports, music, down-to-earth, and very discreet. Looking for one-to-one relationship with a black or latino guy, who is safe, sincere, honest, masculine and top. If interested, please call at 818-242-3636 after 6 p.m. (32)

If you're blk and top man, enjoy getting sucked, well hung and horny, call Jim 818-344-1913. No calls on Sat. (32)

If you're GBM with a big cock, call Alex 818-896-8890. blond wants to please you. (34)

WM, 33, handsome, will lick young straight smooth black butts anytime and all the time! Large stocky butch guys only. Box 46841, Los Angeles 90046. (32)

Black male to meet hung male days. O.C.C., Box 19002, L.A. 90019. (34)

If you'd like to meet a warm, friendly, goodlooking, 6'1", 180#, 34 year old, GR/P, masculine, relationship minded GWM then write to Box 691943, L.A., CA 90069. You should be masculine, 28 to 40 years, top, and willing to take things slow and easy. No drugs please. (32)

Black is sexy and that's what I like. I'm a shy Latino. Call me. Richard, 213-465-8968. (32)

GBM, 28, 6', 165, attractive, light-skinned fun, discreet, given up on finding good solid lover relationship, seeking safe fun with attractive straight/married types for periodic visits. Prefer black, however other races welcome. Call Steven in Glendale at 818-548-9539. No fats, fems or drugs. (32)

Stunning attractive GBM seeks WM for great times. Robert, 213-937-7622. (34)

Hot white guy to sucks black studs in leather only. R.W., 12021 Wilshire Blvd. ##899, Los Angeles, CA 90025. Photo. (32)

Commitment and values: B/M, 38, 5'11", 170, G/P seeks an affectionate tall G/A white or black top man 40-55 who likes 1-to-1, homelife, mountains and stability. Mel, Box 71247, L.A. 90071, 213-656-0528 ext. 22. (34)

Hot, friendly white guy with tight pussy ass needs it regularly/safely spread, filled and deep slow pumped by condomed boyfriend. Richie, Box 5791 Glendale, CA 91221-5791. (32)

Attractive black male, 5'10", 190 pounds, muscle-toned body, 34 years of age, seeks attractive, white male of the same stature or taller for outdoor fun, adventure, and quiet cozy evenings. No j/o calls. Relationship-oriented only. Call before 11 p.m. Ask for Biff. 213-931-3637. (32)

GWM, 25, seeks gay black or Hispanic male, under 30 years old, for dating, friendship and fun. Must have good sense of humor and positive outlook on life. Honesty, stability and romance are also important qualities. BLK Mailbox #142. (32)

GWM has talented tongue to service GBM front and rear. Try me. Randy, Box 74241, Los Angeles, CA 90004. Will pay. (E)

GBM, 41, 5'11", 147, beard & mous-

tache seeks GWM for sincere correspondence. All letters answered. Sumari, Box 69265, Los Angeles, CA 90069. (E)

Tall, affectionate black male, 33, muscular, "runner's build," seeks beefy, non-smoking white male weightlifter, 28-50, for cuddling. Brion, 929 S. Lake, Los Angeles, CA 90006. (32)

Football player, beefy weightlifter wanted. U—love to cuddle. I—love to massage. We—need to belong. Black man, 41, 5'9", 180, workout. Box 29037, Los Angeles, CA 90029. (32)

Sexy French muscular bodybuilder, 30, 5'10", 175 bubblebutt, green-blue eyes, longs for tall, massive, super muscular, thick, bodybuilder over 200 lbs., any race, for friendship and safe fun. Am discreet, sophisticated. 213-656-2942. (33)

Sit on my face! Box 86651, L.A., CA 90086. (E)

Cute blond bottom seeks giant buffed dominant man. 818-765-5132. (E)

Discreet professional black male, a body worshipper, seeks muscular, chubby, husky, bodybuilder type men with super, super big thighs & super, super big bubble butt for friendship. 213-933-3098. (E)

Affection, passion, companion, HIV-. Box 5950243, Orange, CA 92667. (E)

Commitment and values: B/M, 38, 5'11", 170, G/P seeks an affectionate tall G/A white or black top man 40-55 who likes 1-to-1, homelife, mountains and stability. Mel, Box 712427, Los Angeles, CA 90071. 213-656-0258 ext. 22. (34)

If your sex black tool is extra large (diameter and/or length) I challenge you to try me. I am 35 years old, Latino, 140 pounds, 5'7", bilingual. Letter and/or nude photo. Mr. V., Box 761326, Los Angeles, CA 90076. (E)

Sincere, slender black male artist seeks handsome, very aggressive, versatile, sincere, homo erectus, any race. No chubbies, queens or losers. Call 213-661-1431. (33)

White seeks black for friendship and more. Gay white male, 32, body-builder, seeks gay black male, 27 to 40. Me: honest, energetic, intelligent, mature, passionate, loving, assertive but versatile, capable of compromise, professional, handsome, masculine, muscular, brown hair, blue eyes, 6'2", 195#, 8x5½", bubble-butt. You: similar man of excellent character, ready and capable of being an equal partner, 6'2" to 6'5", 9x6½+", dark and muscular and healthy. Call 619-322-6292. You won't be bored! (E)

Gay male, 37, 5'9", 165 lbs., blue eyes, into classic film, music, sunset walks at the beach, seeks intelligent, aware individual for mutually-fulfilling companionship. Please call Bruce at 213-338-9695. (24)

MEN'S PERSONALS—CO

Caribbean man wants tops with thick dicks. Box 18714, Denver, CO 80218. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—CT

Congenial white male ISO black male. Box 284, Hartford, Cconnecticut 06141-0284. (TF)

MEN'S PERSONALS—DC

Gay black male, 5'10", 192 pounds, straight-appearing, romantic, would like to meet Canadian or European gay, white of similar characteristics. Must be straight-appearing, stocky or muscular. Will visit Europe this fall. Box 15331, Washington, DC 20003. (32)

GWM seeks GBM hung huge. 202-483-3693. (E)

Single African-American male 26, 5'9" slender, light complexioned, masculine, healthy and intelligent and very conscious. Seeking friendship and correspondence with intelligent serious minded, independent masculine, light skin brother or Puerto Rican brother age 20-29. Let's write with photos and letters to Eric, Box 39215, Washington, D.C. 20016. Peace brother. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—GA

GBM 30 195 seeks J/O partner GBM 24-30. Box 54894, Atlanta, GA 30308. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—HI

You are top, hung, HIV+ and want to enjoy life. Loving home waiting for you in Hawaii. Write: Boxholder, Box 75704, Honolulu, HI 96836. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—IL

Gay white male seeks gay black male, 30s, in Chicago, Illinois. 312-525-1267. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—LA

Gay white male, 29, looking for sincere blacks for possible relationship. Can relocate anywhere upon release. James Fitzgerald #98743, Northpoint Training Center, Box 479, Burgin, KY 40310. (32)

MEN'S PERSONALS—KY

Gay black father seeks friendship/relationship with other gay fathers black or white or those who appreciate children who have reached adolescent age. I am a warm sensitive romantic in search of others who are family-oriented. Write Ly-Leh, Box 144, Evergreen, LA 71333. (E)

Black male, seeking bi-couples, TVs, TSs, drag queens, crossdressers, any race, any shape, ages 21 to 55, for friendship, kinky times, swinging. Am clean and discreet. Like all cultures. Motel meetings in Natchez, Mississippi, Vidalia, Louisiana, Ferriday, Louisiana area. Call anytime day or night. 318-339-9269. C.B., Box 941, Jonesville, LA 71343. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MD

Nice guy seeks same for friendship. This 50-year-old straight-acting WM is looking for a very masculine BM. Pleasant disposition, positive outlook and stability are important to me. Blue collar, thick endowment and trim build are pluses. Send detailed letter and photo of yourself to: BLK Mailbox #118 or call 301-779-6738. Pen pals welcome. Visitors to D.C. should call in advance of arrival. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MA

WM, 53, seeks thin, romantic, clean black male in Boston. Call 617-524-0417. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MI

Professional masculine GBM, 31, 6'2", 190#, HIV+, enjoy running, skiing, cooking and still dream about romance. Frustrated with the Detroit scene. I would like to meet/correspond with other masculine (not into roles) HIV+, GLatin/GB males for friendship and maybe more. I do not use drugs/smoke. Write. There is nothing to loose, but everything to gain. BLK Mailbox #135. (33)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MS

Handsome Samson. Brent, Unit 28, #44219 Parchman, MS. (34)

Sex god. Butler, Unit 28, #45779 Parchman, MS. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NJ

Latin male, professional, clean, masculine, mid-forties, seeks the same in a black older gentleman only. No vices or pain. Occupant, Box 392, Passaic, NJ 07055. (34)

White male, 32, 160, brown hair, blue eyes, seeking young males for friends/sexual partners. Prefer cute, slim, smooth, cut, clean-shaven boyish Northern European, black and Southeast Asians. Like music, philosophy, science, health food. Am honest, sensitive, sincere. Live-in possible. No V.D., kinky/slutty types. Photo a must (preferably revealing)! Ron, Box 307, Irvington, NJ 07111-1940. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NY

Masculine WM, 41, seeks top BM. BLK Mailbox #134. (32)

White professional seeks black man. Smith, 118 Second St., Albany, 12210. (E)

GWM, 42, 5'1", 125 lbs, brown hair, blue eyes, eyeglasses, considered cute. Cigarettes, wine, dancing, antiques, movies, rock, classical, quiet nights at home. Mature, responsible, warm, gentle, loving. Seek black male 40+, same attributes for friendship and possibly more. Rochester, N.Y. area. Serious replies only, send photo. BLK Mailbox #133 (E)

Lean, muscular, GBM, top, 52, 6', 155, seeks fit, muscular, intelligent bottoms, into camping, hiking, nudism, travel, all ages/races. J. Tree, Box 161, S.I., NY 10304. (E)

GWM, continental, refined, personable, safe, hospitable, in his 50s, seeks hung BM for worship and devotion. 212-677-4159. (E)

GWM, 48, goodlooking, masculine appearance, HIV-, caring, down to earth guy, seeks young, masculine BM, 18-30 for serious relationship, Box 547, Bridgehampton, NY 11932. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—OH

W/M 26, smooth bottom. Sami Cripple. R138659, Box 120 Lebanon, OH 45036. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—SC

Hot blooded, masculine, black Southern buck, 25, with hot Southern comfort to offer. Interested in masculine GBM everywhere. I'm extremely fond of medium to large physique men, however, slender men are welcome also. Send your hottest letters and photos in exchange for mine. (No fats or fems, please.) Marc, Box 12143, Cola, SC 29211. (E)

Attractive, masculine, GBM, 25, would like to meet GBM from everywhere who could teach an inexperienced ex-prisoner of guilt about being gay. The joy of gay sex! Am very eager to learn. Send your hottest letters and nude photos. In return you'll get mine. M.T., Box 12143, Cola, South Carolina. No fems, please! (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—TX

Uncuts fascinate you? Like to call, write, meet or play with uncuts? Correspondence-contact club for those into Uncuts. SASE to UM, Box 72455-BK, Corpus Christi, TX 78472. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—UT

GWM, 55, 5'8", 150, attractive Utah professional, seeks GBM or Latin athlete, non-smoker, non-drinker, non-drug user. If you fit this description and are seriously looking for a quality one-one relationship, call 801-364-2523. (32)

MEN'S PERSONALS—VA

GWM, 55, 160#, 5'9", stable, sane, secure, non-smoker/drinker, HIV negative, seeks similar black male under 40 years old, non-obese for friendship, good times, mutual pleasures and possible relationship. Box 23093, Alexandria, VA 22304. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—WA

GWM, Christian desires GBM friendship. B.H., Box 3263, Seattle, WA 98144. (34)

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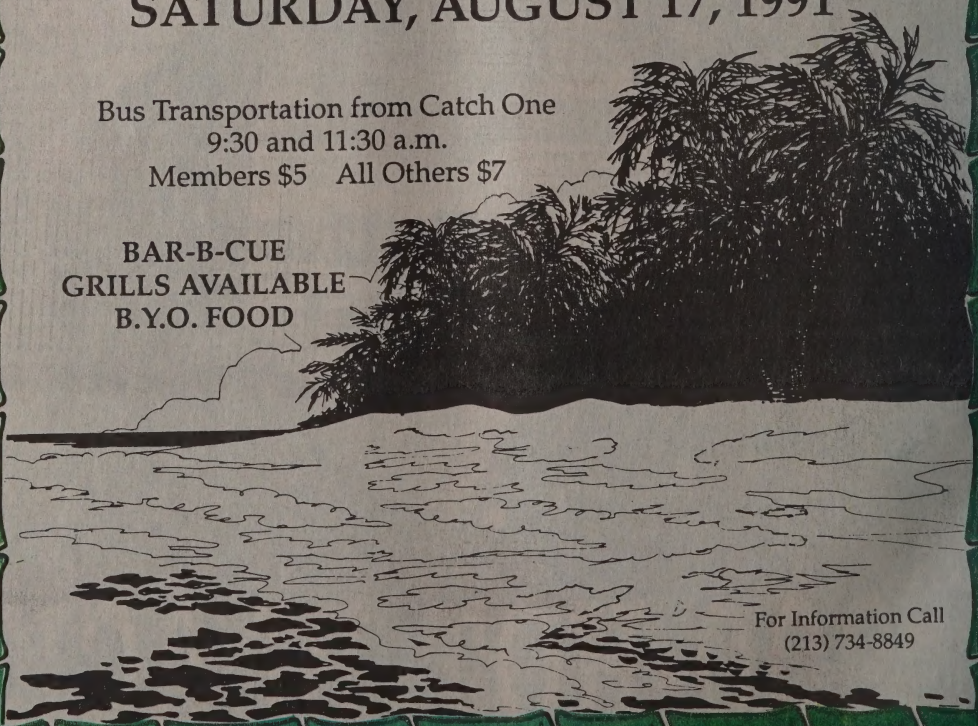

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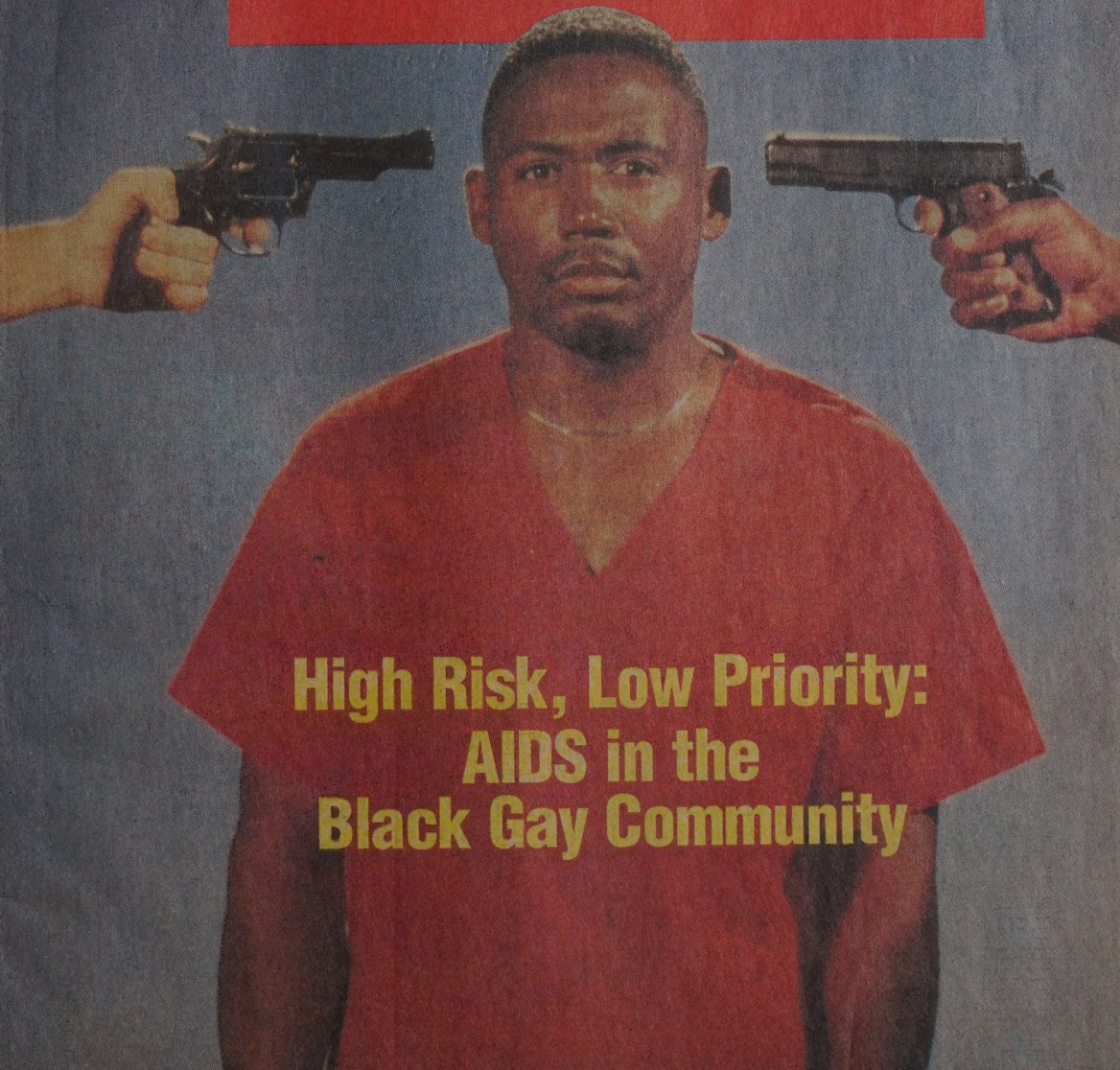
THE NATIONAL BLACK LESBIAN AND GAY NEWSMAGAZINE

Vol. 3, No. 7
Whole No. 32
July 1991

BLK



High Risk, Low Priority: AIDS in the Black Gay Community

WHAT'S WORSE...
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A LIFETIME OF FEAR AND WORRYING?
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IT ONLY TAKES ABOUT 20 MINUTES

Word Up

News of the Outrageous, the Amusing, the Pathetic and the Unexpected by Leon Miller

Rosa Parks, Assassin

A teacher in North Carolina's Floyd County school system was mistakenly teaching that Rosa Parks assassinated Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1968. Parks, of course, was the woman whose refusal to give up her seat to a white person sparked the Montgomery bus boycott. The superintendent of schools has apologized.

Bimbos Diss BLK with Diarrhea

Bimbox, for those of you not on the cutting edge of radical queer culture, is a 'zine bent on the destruction of lesbian and gay culture to be replaced by "a queers-only world."

Listen up. Are someone's cheeks getting tongued?

Anyway, the white boy bimbos at *Bimbox,* trashed BLK in their issue #4 complaining that BLK wasn't angry or outrageous enough, vomiting that they "wouldn't think twice about throwing eggs" at us.

If their physical capacity matches their mental, we doubt if they can lift eggs, much less throw them. The needle-dicked knuckleheads, who are probably fat and ugly, not only dissed BLK but *Outweek, L.A. Weekly,* Phranc, *Pansy Beat,* and Queer Nation as well, with their xeroxed diarrhea. They need some fierce brothers to go upside their pointy heads and carve their little pink hearts out with a spoon.

The *Bimbox*ers hide in Canada, but if their stoopid nasal selves ever set foot on our turf, we'll fuck 'em up. Check it out. We'll shoot a lighted Roman Candle up the place where dicks should go.

And we'll do it wearing simple black dresses with a single strand of pearls and our moustaches dyed to match the queer flag.

How ya like us now, *Bimbox?*

The LAPD Talks that Talk

The Christopher Commission, which investigated the Los Angeles Police Dept. following the beating of Rodney King, has issued its report, which, among other things, suggests that Chief Daryl Gates should retire.

A supplemental report lists examples of nearly 1,500 offensive messages sent by officers to one another using computer keyboards installed in each squad car.

The messages brought a hush to the hearings, and are credited with convincing even the staunchest police supporters that the abuse was unacceptable.

(The spelling and grammar, by the way, appears as it was in the report.)

"...by the way do you still have that KKK meeting on Friday..."

"I spoke to Sgt [name omitted] who said we did a outstanding job...with those Jamician junebugs."

"My shooting policy is based on nationality and looks."

"I can't believe fish can change sexes in a week."

"Ya...drag queens would be bummed..."

"How's the faggots treating you."

"He didn't like that a nigger was driving a brand new vette."

"I feel like I'm in Africa."

"Monkeys in the trees, monkeys in the trees, hi ho dario moneys in the trees."

"Did your fag have Aids...probably they all do ...jail is the perfect place for him...hes around all those males...boy is he lucky."

These communications, by the way, were *not* private messages. These were sent over channels that are open to all on the police network.

Gay = AIDS and Prostitution

As part of the fallout from the *Tongues Untied* controversy, Jennifer Lawson, Public Broadcasting Service executive vice president for national programming and promotion services, has found herself defending PBS's record on lesbian and gay programming.

According to the June 17 issue of *Electronic Media,* Lawson said, "We do a lot of programs about homosexuality. *Frontline* has done AIDS and male prostitution."

Ahhhh. Now I know what it means to be gay. Not to mention what it means to be lesbian.

More Hateful Rap Lyrics

Effect Records has just released "Nasty Bitch" written by John Blckham, Jr. [*sic*], performed by Bust Down and executive produced by Luther Campbell, the latter of 2 Live Crew fame.

The rap song is about three drug-abusing women a guy has absolutely no use for *except* when he wants to get off.

Among the more memorable lines are:

"...dyke, bull dagger, rock-smoking' dog."

"She laid down, grabbed me by my waist, got freaky, and asked me to piss in her face."

"I farted in her mouth and made her cheeks inflate."

"She went to choking. She couldn't take this dick. But I didn't give a fuck. I tried to kill that bitch."

If you'd like to express your appreciation for the beautiful sentiments so sensitively presented, contact Effect Records, 8400 N.E. 2nd Ave., Miami, Fla. 33138.

Penis Rides in Limousine

For the third annual World AIDS Day, sponsors in Amsterdam featured a man dressed as a giant penis riding in a limousine. He was accosted by a group of nurses, who unrolled a giant condom onto him.

There was no info on what the giant condomed penis then entered.

Why 15 Distribs Nixed 'Paris'

Despite the fact that *Paris Is Burning* received rave reviews and played a record run in New York, at least 15 distributors passed on the film.

Homophobia?

Racism?

No. Music problems.

It seems that director Jennie Livingston technically didn't have permission to use the music heard in the film.

Miramax Films, who finally decided to take the film on, reportedly spent 25 percent of the film's budget obtaining the proper clearances.

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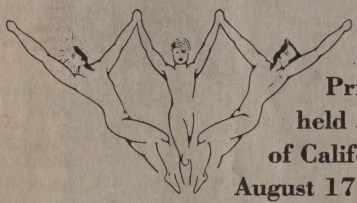
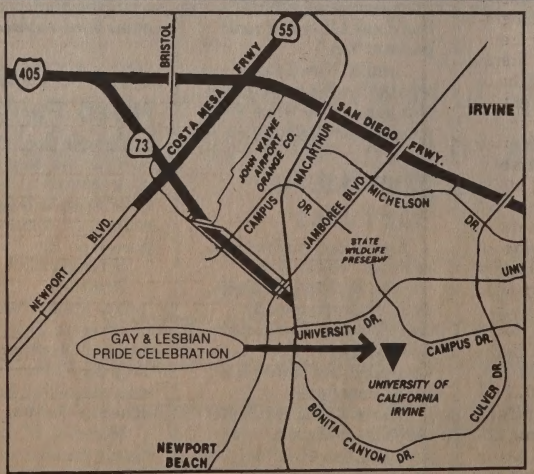


The 1991 Orange County Cultural Pride Gay & Lesbian Pride Celebration will be held at the University of California, Irvine, August 17 & 18.

Free Parade Viewing. • Festival Admission $10.

Volunteer Opportunities Available
For Information, Contact: 714 · 998 · 4498



The OCCP Gay & Lesbian Pride Celebration is held in cooperation with Laguna Outreach, UCIGLSU & UCIFSN.

BLK

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ON THE COVER: Emanuel Tapp. *Fake guns by Stembridge. Photo by Bruce Hunt.*

BLK MAIL

Literate and Intelligent

Dear Editor:

Here's two dollars for your October 1990 issue, the one containing the story of how J. Edgar Hoover planted a bug in Martin Luther King's hotel room and caught that wonderful bit of dialogue. To me it was so deeply moving that even during the heat of their battle, even though their very lives were on the line and their every move subjected to the scrutiny of enemies, these men were so passionate and so hip that they could engage in this loving and peculiarly black rhetorical excess leaving J. Edgar to scratch his head bloody trying to figure out what the fuck they might have meant!

This story might have been published somewhere else, but I can't imagine where I would have seen it if not in BLK. It's for reasons like this that I like your magazine. Although I am neither black nor gay I do make an effort to pick up each issue here in West Hollywood where I live. I find BLK pretty literate and intelligent, and there is always something within its pages that I find interesting and which deepens my understanding of my fellow man.

I realize that BLK is dealing with a complex sensibility which is fully inside the experience of a very small number of people. However it is probably for this very reason that I think it is so valuable. There is often great wisdom, kindness and humanity on the edges of this great, beautiful and cruel America of ours.

Jonathan Gordon
West Hollywood, Calif.

A Major Minor Point

Dear Editor:

A minor point regarding May '91, "Word Up" by Leon Miller in which he refers to International Male. While the main gist of the article holds true, his percentage of photographs depicting black men is off by a factor of some magnitude. I think he may have dropped a decimal somewhere.

One percent of 216 images is a tad more than two. Therefore, it's impossible for 13 of 216 images to be "six tenths of one percent" (.6 of 1 percent) as he states. In fact, 13 of 216 images is actually a bit over 6 percent. While it may not yet be good enough, there's a huge difference between the two figures. Think of it as the difference between 6 percent of a ton (120 lbs) falling on you or 6/10 of 1/100 of a ton (.006 x 2000 lbs) (12 lbs).

Things are bad enough, let's not make them any worse.

Changing subjects totally, I'd like to note that Rex Wockner's article, "No Peace," in the April '91 issue is probably one of the most informative—and maybe terrifying—articles I've read in any gay paper.

Frank Mosca
Montclair, Calif.

If you wish to have a letter considered for publication, address it to BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, California 90083-0912. You may also send letters by fax, 24-hours, seven days a week: 213-410-9250. Keep your letter brief, and be sure to include your full name, address and telephone number for verification. Names will be withheld from publication on request. Letters may be edited for purposes of space or clarity.

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High Risk, Low Priority

Society Turns a Double Blind Eye on AIDS in the black gay community

By Michael Broder

While the black gay community may be at the highest risk for AIDS of any group in the nation, it is certainly among the poorest served with AIDS education, prevention, health care and other kinds of support. In pharmaceutical research, "double blind" refers to a placebo-controlled clinical trial in which neither the researcher nor the participant knows whether the patient is receiving the experimental drug or a placebo. The "double blind" of this article's title refers to the twofold invisibility that black gay people face in this society, the invisibility of color, and the invisibility of sexuality. And invisibility, like silence, can equal death, especially in the context of the AIDS epidemic.

OVERVIEW

But while racism and homophobia contribute to the risk of contracting HIV and developing AIDS, the layers of invisibility are really many more than just two. Black lesbians are hidden behind the additional veil of gender. People suffering from drug addiction are further removed from the public consciousness, because of society's desire to avoid and deny the scope of the nation's drug problem. If you are homeless, with no address, you are literally nowhere. And our nation's prisons confine too many black men and women to the forgotten margins of society. But the shooting galleries, and the streets, and the prisons, and the bodies of black women and men are the places where HIV and AIDS are burying their widest, deepest, most insidious roots.

While posters in trains, buses, and magazines—paid for by Burroughs Wellcome out of AZT profits—assure millions of Americans that "Every day, more and more people are learning to live with HIV," it is too easy to forget that thousands are still dying, and that thousands more will become infected and sick in the coming years. Over 175,000 cases of AIDS have been reported in the United States. Over 107,000 people have died, and that number is expected to more than double in just the next two years. An estimated 1.5 million Americans are now infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. More and more, the infected, sick, and dead will be found in communities of color, where racism, economic discrimination, and a burgeoning health care crisis yield an ever-riper breeding ground for AIDS.

AIDS Epidemiology Shifts to the Black Community. About 29 percent of all AIDS cases in the United States have been among African Americans (all national statistics in this section reflect cases reported through April 1991). That is a staggering figure, especially when blacks make up only about 12 percent of the population. Moreover, that 29 percent covers ten years of an epidemic that emerged in this country largely among gay white men. Looking at the statistics over time, one finds that an ever greater proportion of AIDS cases are found among African-American men, women, and children as the epidemic progresses.

In New York City, for example—the American city with the highest incidence of AIDS—by the middle of 1982 the number of cases diagnosed among black women exceeded the number diagnosed among white women. By January of 1990 case for black women stood at about 480 cases per year, as compared to about 340 cases for Latina women, and about 120 cases for white women. Among men, the number of cases diagnosed among blacks exceeded the number diagnosed among Latinos by the beginning of 1982, and finally exceeded the number diagnosed among whites by the beginning of 1990, running at about 1500 cases per year. Similar trends can be expected in other large urban centers.

Intravenous (IV) drug use is clearly the single most important factor in this shift in AIDS epidemiology from whites to people of color. While only eight percent of AIDS cases reported among whites of both genders attribute IV drug use as the HIV exposure category, 39 percent of AIDS cases among blacks fall into this category, as do 40 percent among Latinos.

For women of all racial and ethnic groups except Asians and Pacific Islanders, exposure to HIV through IV drug use is significantly more prevalent than exposure through heterosexual contact. Fifty-six percent of AIDS cases reported among black women attribute IV drug use as the exposure category, as opposed to 33 percent exposed through heterosexual contact. Among Latina women, the numbers are 50 percent for IV drug use, versus 38 percent for heterosexual contact. Of course, many women exposed to HIV through heterosexual contact are the partners of male IV drug users, so their infection is ultimately attributable to IV drug use as well. This is the case for 62 percent of all women with AIDS, 60 percent of black women, and 80 percent of Latina women.

Of children less than 13 years old with AIDS nationwide —3,028 in total—1,589 were black, while 762 were Latino, and 647 were white. For all groups, the overwhelming majority of infections occurred *in utero*, either because the mother used IV drugs herself or had sexual contact with an IV drug user. Again, however, the percentage of *in utero* infections was higher among blacks (92 percent) than among Latinos (86 percent), or whites (61 percent), who had a much higher rate of exposure through receipt of blood transfusion, blood components, or tissue. Moreover, the numbers show that IV drug use itself—as opposed to sexual contact with IV drug users—is a much bigger problem among black women than among other groups. That is, more than three times as many black children with AIDS were born to mothers who used IV drugs themselves (724 cases) as to mothers who only had sexual contact with an IV drug user (232 cases), as compared to about twice as many white children, and one-and-a-half times as many Latino children who fell into this category.

But again, AIDS itself is actually only one factor in the AIDS epidemic. There are other epidemics at work here: racism, sexism, homophobia, poverty (as well as poverty's roots in social and economic discrimination), drug abuse and homelessness (as well as their stigmatization). And perhaps the most pernicious epidemic, the one that feeds the others most, is the lack of political leadership and political will, in cities, states, Congress and the White House. And it's not too controversial a proposition to state that some communities are hit harder than others, by both AIDS and its concomitant epidemics. "Certainly the African-American community has a pretty full plate," says Reggie Williams, executive director of the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention of the National Association of Black and White Men Together in San Francisco.

Let The Reader Beware. One important factor—a caveat, if you will—must be presented before proceeding. While the author set out to do a piece on AIDS in the black gay and lesbian community, he must admit that the article focuses almost exclusively on black gay men. This slant arose largely from the method of research, which was to conduct interviews with black AIDS activists and advocates. While few of the organizations I contacted had the word "men" in their names (some did), virtually all turned out to be organizations focused on providing education, prevention, and advocacy services to black gay men (or to gay men of color at large). Consequently, that's whom I heard most about, and whom I ultimately wrote most about. I know the story of black lesbians dealing with AIDS is out there, but I couldn't get at it for inclusion in the current piece. Maybe next time. In fact, if you deal with AIDS in the black lesbian community, write and tell me about it. I need all the help I can get.

Prevention and Education Versus Care and Treatment? How do we overcome an epidemic? Be it AIDS, drugs, poverty, homelessness, or any other condition, there are generally two paths: prevention and education on the one hand, care and treatment on the other. Combining the two approaches is the ideal: preventing poverty, for example, through teaching job skills and creating expanded employment opportunities, while providing those who are already poor with financial assistance and social services.

"He's into extremely safe sex."

But while a dual approach seems most sensible, it turns out to be more controversial than you might think. Both approaches involve spending public funds on programs and services that taxpayers often believe do not benefit them, to solve problems that they believe do not affect them. Under these circumstances, prevention and education often seems the lesser evil, because it is more palatable to preserve the innocent than to assist the guilty. And in our society, "guilty" is how we consider and treat people with AIDS, drug addicts, the unemployed, the homeless, the mentally ill, and others in detrimental circumstances.

Care and treatment is often harder to gain support for. People would rather pay for "Just Say No" ads to keep kids off drugs in the first place (someone else's kids, of course—mine would never do such a thing), than pay for detoxes, rehabs, supportive housing, child care, job training, and the full array of medical, mental health, and social services that could get and keep addicts off drugs.

But while the public may be quicker to support education and prevention than care and treatment, they often would sooner forego both, in favor of punishment. Sometimes they call it deterrence: Just throw the druggies in prison; they don't belong out on the streets, and locking them up will send a clear message. Sometimes punishment takes the form of malignant neglect: Teenage mothers? Let the fathers support the kids. Unemployed? Let him get a job, like everyone else. Homeless? Let 'em freeze, that'll teach 'em to loiter in public parks. AIDS? Let them drop dead. They only got what they deserved.

So, on the public policy side, we generally approach social crises in the following order of preference: eagerly punish the afflicted, through malignant neglect or outright retaliation; charitably offer prevention and education to those at risk, in hopes of reaching them before they "go bad"; grudgingly provide care and treatment for as few as possible, to demonstrate the boundless compassion of our great democracy.

That is the case, of course, only as long as politicians and bureaucrats are left in charge of policy. What is unique about the AIDS epidemic—and what is perhaps at the same time its darkest tragedy and its brightest hope—is the fact that politicians and bureaucrats have never wanted anything to do with it. From the very beginning, every inch of territory in the effort to conquer AIDS has been won—or lost—by what has come to be called "the AIDS community." And again, unique among social crises, the AIDS community—the people leading the fight—have been those directly affected by the disease: people with AIDS, and later people with HIV, as well as those at risk, their lovers, friends, and families.

But the AIDS community has conflicts of its own, and the strategy and tactics of the fight against this epidemic are as riddled with controversies for AIDS activists and advocates as they are for politicians and bureaucrats, albeit controversies of a different sort. And yet some things are constant, for while the policies of punishment and malignant neglect are of course not on the table, the debate about prevention versus treatment rages on within the AIDS community itself.

It is a painful debate, because nobody in the AIDS community wants to see either side of the equation neglected. But in a world of scarce resources—both human and financial—choices must be made. In order to understand the factors influencing the choices that face the black gay community as it confronts AIDS, one must consider the community itself, its experience with AIDS, and the broader social context over the past decade.

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The Education Gap. Black gay men are—as a group—less educated than white gay men about HIV and AIDS. "I am not satisfied that black gay men have had the kind of emersion in AIDS education they need to prevent themselves from becoming infected with HIV," says Dr. Frank Oldham, Jr., director of the Office of Gay and Lesbian Health Concerns in the New York City Department of Health. Says Oldham, "There are still myths around that are very, very dangerous." Thus, according to Oldham and many other black gay AIDS activists across the nation, the most pressing need is for more outreach, and more education, particularly in condom use and low risk sexual behaviors.

But it is a matter of attitudes, not just of raw information. Oldham points out that there is often little peer pressure among black gay men to practice safer sex, and that high-risk sex is easily available to men cruising in black and Latino bars. In a survey conducted by the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention last year, they found that many more men knew about risk behaviors for contracting HIV than consistently used condoms. Men must learn to "translate knowledge into actual practice," says Ronald Johnson, executive director of the Minority Task Force on AIDS in New York. They need programs to increase and build their skills in negotiating the issue of safer-sex when meeting men and approaching sexual situations.

Caring About Our Lives. Low self-esteem and lack of empowerment around the issue of being gay pose the most serious obstacles to the development of a safer-sex consciousness among black gay men. Says Oldham, "You have to love yourself enough, and love your life enough, to do this" (i.e. practice safer sex). "How much do you care about your life," Oldham asks, "if you are unemployed or underemployed, have no housing or sub-standard housing, have been involved with substance abuse because you have a real need to escape a very painful existence, and you have suffered from racism?" If sex is your only release from these stresses, says Oldham, "there is great resistance to putting a condom on that."

Moreover, black gay men face barriers in seeking and obtaining the support of their peers. Even for those who consider themselves gay, that consciousness may be a matter of private identity only, not public identity. Many black gay men, says the Minority Task Force's Ronald Johnson, "won't go to a public gay event, lest their cover be exposed." Black gay men have lacked opportunities to meet with their peers, share experiences and feelings, work to overcome internalized homophobia, and develop self-love and a positive self-image.

One person who has sought to address this problem is Phill Wilson, now the AIDS coordinator for the City of Los Angeles. In 1986, Wilson developed a program called the Hot, Horny and Healthy Playshop as a project of the Los Angeles chapter of Black and White Men Together. As Wilson explains, his interest in developing the program arose after the HIV antibody test became available in 1985. At that time, Wilson recalls, safer-sex messages proliferated, but the messages were very negative, emphasizing the kinds of sex men could no longer have safely.

Wilson says that these messages were inadequate for all gay men, but particularly for black gay men, already burdened with a heavy load of negative messages about their sexuality, and lacking the communal affirmation of gay sexuality that had accompanied the mostly-white gay liberation movement of the seventies. Wilson wanted a program that dealt with safer sex and empowerment at the same time. He describes the prevailing approach to HIV in the white gay community as a "steppingstone model" with four distinct steps: information, education, prevention, and intervention. It took five years to develop that model, Wilson says, adding, "We really didn't have five years to duplicate the model in black gay communities."

The result was the Hot, Horny and Health Playshop. While eroticizing safer sex is perhaps the most immediate goal of the program and its chief draw, it also seeks to convey basic "AIDS 101" information, and to lead men towards personal choices and empowerment based on a sense of self-worth. The program encourages black gay men to embrace their sexuality, and to embrace sex. The essential messages: "I don't deserve to get AIDS. My life is worth protecting."

The three-hour program was initially presented to small groups in peoples homes, then moved into meetings of gay community organizations. When Wilson came to work for Reggie Williams at the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention, Hot, Horny and Health really took off. On a kind of world concert tour, Phil Wilson personally presented the playshop to some 2000 to 3000 gay men throughout the United States, England, Germany, and Australia. "I think the most important thing about Hot, Horny and Healthy," says Wilson, "is that it provided a venue for black gay men to talk about sex and AIDS." Hot, Horny and Healthy Playshops are now conducted regularly by many black gay AIDS organizations around the country. The San Francisco-based Bay Area HIV Support and Education Services (BAHSES) has incorporated Hot, Horny and Healthy Playshops into other kinds of prevention and education settings, like peer support groups and bar interventions.

Bar intervention programs are in place in many locales, whether using the Hot, Horny and Healthy model or other approaches. In New York City, the Men of Color AIDS (MOCA) Prevention Program does safer-sex training at

"Welcome to Trans Minority Airlines. Your captain today is Louise Sanchez, a transsexual. Your co-captain is Dewanda Johnson, a queer African-American. And serving you in the forward and aft cabins will be a cadre of congenial lesbians and gay men. If any one has a problem with that...get over it."

Keller's, right across the street from the infamous piers where the West Village meets the Hudson River. In Philadelphia, an exotic dancer named Magic makes a show of condoms and safer-sex information at B.J.P.'s, on 53rd and Market, and The Nile on 13th and Locust. In Washington, D.C., the Inner City AIDS Network (ICAN) goes to The Brass Rail, The Back Door Pub, and the social club Encore. In Los Angeles, the Minority AIDS Project travels to the Horizon and Jewel's Catch One. In the San Francisco bay area, BAHSES takes the safer-sex message to The Cable's Reef in Oakland, and the Black Coalition on AIDS hits the bath houses—The Steam Works in Berkeley, and the Water Gardens in San Jose.

Many of these organizations also bring condoms and safer-sex information to sex clubs, parks, bus and train stations, anywhere that black gay men can be found seeking or having sex. This outreach effort is crucial, says ICAN administrator Alexander Robinson, because black men who do not openly identify as gay or bisexual are hard to reach in bars and other traditional gathering spots of the gay community. "You have to go to the places where the community frequents," says BAHSES program director Kevin Brooks. "The more they see you, the more trust they will have in you." Honesty, as well as consistency, is critical in building trust. "You have to be straight up with the community," says Brooks. "You can't lie. You will lose your credibility."

Longer-term workshops and peer support groups are also part of the AIDS education and prevention strategy being implemented by activists in black gay communities nationwide. ICAN in Washington, D.C. currently has six support groups in progress, each with 10-15 HIV-positive men. ICAN administrator Alexander Robinson reports that the first group, which began last August, is still meeting a year later. "We are still living, and we still have something to offer life," is how program director Kevin Brooks describes the theme of the BAHSES HIV support groups in San Francisco.

Primary Health Care Crisis. "Everybody is of the mind set that prevention and education are going to save us, and they're wrong," says Keith Cylar, a longtime AIDS activist who is now the director of Housing and Services at Housing Works, a fledgling community-based organization providing advocacy, housing, and case-management services to homeless people with AIDS and HIV in New York City. While much of the AIDS community considers prevention and education to be the first priority in communities of color, Cylar's emphasis is on such issues as primary health, drug treatment, mental health, and housing. If these needs are not met, Cylar argues, all the education efforts in the world will not get people of color to practice safer sex consistently and effectively.

Because of a variety of social and economic factors, much of the black community lacks adequate primary health care. "We have the best health care system in the world," says Bart Casimir of San Francisco's Black Coalition on AIDS, "but the accessibility is not there." There is often an inadequate supply of private doctors in black communities, and the cost of private health care is often prohibitive. According to figures released by the Census Bureau, 30.7 percent of black people nationwide were living below the poverty level in 1989, while 20 percent lacked any health insurance in the fourth quarter of 1988.

Among people who can afford private health care, and especially in cities with large white gay male populations, an extensive network of medical doctors and alternative health care practitioners has developed, with experience, knowledge, and interest in dealing with HIV and AIDS. As Ronald Johnson points out, long-term survivors of AIDS are not only primarily white, but also—and perhaps more importantly—primarily middle class. Says Johnson, "Too often, the racial and ethnic issues mask what are really class issues."

While more affluent whites do not have a "magic bullet" against AIDS that impoverished people of color lack, they often have access to a wider range of effective options in dealing with HIV. When they get seriously ill, people without private primary care physicians must resort to hospital emergency rooms. Gay people may find attending physicians who are sensitive neither to issues of color nor of gay sexuality, and whose knowledge of AIDS is limited. "African-Americans and people of color need to have a variety of services to choose from," says Curtis Wadlington, executive assistant at Blacks Educating Blacks about Sexual Health Issues (BEBASHI) in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. If they are not comfortable with the "mainstream" service providers, they will simply forego services altogether. A lack of options, Wadlington says, "forces people to stay at home and die."

Denial and stigmatization around AIDS within communities of color pose further barriers to obtaining sensitive and appropriate health care. "So much of our community doesn't want to deal with AIDS," says Ronald Johnson of New York's Minority Task Force. Kevin Brooks, of San Francisco's BAHSES, adds, "The black community is still not identifying [with the AIDS epidemic]. They don't see themselves in it." Too many members of the black community still see AIDS as a white man's disease. This is a function of denial about black homosexuality: being gay in the black community is okay, as long is it's kept quiet. Consequently, says Brooks, "Black men are not coming out."

We sometimes forget that "Silence = Death" is no metaphor. Many black gay men deny AIDS symptoms when they have them. They put off attending to their health needs because of the fear of rejection by family, friends, and community. They may fear going to the family doctor—if there is one—both because they do not want to reveal the secret of their sexuality, and because they doubt the doctor will know very much about AIDS. Thus, they often seek care very late in the course of the disease. "The black man is not getting out there early enough," says BAHSES's Kevin Brooks.

The Culture Gap. Early in the epidemic, organizations like Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) in New York, and Shanti and the AIDS Foundation in San Francisco, created a model and set a standard for linking people with AIDS to appropriate health and social services. But these agencies were founded primarily by middle-class white gay men, to deal with an epidemic that had emerged in their own community. In the face of a spreading epidemic and continued government apathy, the existing advocacy groups were hard pressed to meet the needs of the women, children, and people of color who were developing AIDS in increasing numbers. In particular, they were not equipped to deal with substance abuse, a problem that exacerbates the AIDS epidemic, and that hits black and Latino communities hardest.

Reggie Williams, executive director of the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention in San Francisco, cites the culture gap as a reason why early prevention and education efforts where unsuccessful in the black gay community. Brochures and public service announcements, he says, did not show black gay faces in the early years of the epidemic. When white gay AIDS organizations tried to create programs for black people, says BAHSES's Kevin Brooks, they were set up to fail, because they often either entrusted the program to a white director, or imported a black director from another community. Either way, the result was inappropriate pro-

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graming, insensitive to the needs and realities of the local black gay community.

According to the Minority Task Force's Ronald Johnson, who is a former member of GMHC's board of directors, the situation has improved at GMHC and other AIDS organizations originating in the white community. They have recruited more people of color as employees and as board members, as well as broadening the population base of the people they serve. But AIDS activists in communities of color must continue educating organizations about discrimination in their own ranks and in service provision. "This society is still programed to be a monocultural society," says Bart Casimir of San Francisco's Black Coalition on AIDS.

Too address this problem in San Francisco, the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention has initiated its Early Advocacy and Care for HIV (EACH) program. EACH is essentially an information and referral service with a difference, and the difference is difference itself. "We are not monolithic," says Task Force director Reggie Williams. A Gay Men of Color Consortium heads up the EACH program, with individual treatment advocates serving the African-American, Latino, Asian and Pacific Islander, and Native American communities. There is also a treatment advocate for indigent white gay men, reflecting the understanding that class and wealth, as much as race or ethnicity, form the dividing lines between those who get adequate health care and those who do not.

The EACH treatment advocates address options like medical intervention, clinical trials, alternative treatments, holistic health care, and Chinese herbs. Williams says that the EACH approach is not based on offering communities of color what has worked for other people, but in helping people decide what works for *them*. "Early intervention should be based out of a cultural perspective that the individual can feel comfortable with," says Williams.

Leadership Vacuum in Community and Government. Beyond education, prevention, and primary health care, the AIDS community must deal with people's need for a whole range of support services, like food, clothing, shelter, child care, transportation, counseling, employment, and legal services to deal with everything from AIDS-related discrimination to the sluggish and intransigent public entitlements bureaucracy. Helping people in crisis define their needs and get them met—by accessing the full range of personal, private, and public resources available—is called "case management," and while virtually everyone acknowledges that community-based organizations are the best vehicles for providing this vital service, not everyone is willing to commit the resources necessary to meet the need.

"Community-based organizations who are providing AIDS services are desperately overworked," says Keith Cylar of New York's Housing Works. "The need outstrips the organizations' capacity to function." Other AIDS advocates agree that funding remains a serious problem. Even in these days of increased government recognition that HIV services must be provided for underserved communities, bureaucrats prefer to fund the larger, more established organizations to create new programing, rather than fund newer organizations based in communities of color. The same can be said of private foundations. Funders may argue that this is not racism, but rather a bias in favor of experience and expertise. But this "bang for the buck" logic often masks much more highly political and ideological issues.

Whatever the rationale, the reality is a crippling blow to AIDS organizations serving the black community. "If we just had enough money, I think it would be a tremendous improvement," says Bart Casimir of San Francisco's Black Coalition on AIDS. "We have to fight for funding every year." In Washington, D.C., ICAN's Alexander Robinson says that while more than 70 percent of the city is African-American, this is not reflected in local funding priorities. Nor is there an adequate effort on the part of the city to reach black gay men, who make up about 60 percent of the city's HIV-positive population. Instead, programs and services are generally geared either towards black women and children, or white gay men. Moreover, Robinson says that there are a number of black organizations that are essentially gay, but extreme homophobia prevents them from admitting it, or from targeting services to the black gay community.

The focus of public health agencies on AIDS in black heterosexual women and children, to the neglect of black gay men and lesbians, is generally supported by the mainstream black community. Says Gregory Broyles of New York's Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, women and children are "more palatable issues," and will always be the community's priority. "I would like to see our institutions be more responsive" says Broyles, who directs a recently initiated outreach program targeting black gay men. In an organization sometimes faulted for a conservative, heterosexist, and ecclesiastical bent, Broyles is a relatively outspoken gay voice. He laments the fact that not enough black gay men are willing to come out as spokespeople for the community, and that the black community at large has yet to sufficiently own its gay component. "We are the ones who are ultimately responsible for our own community," says Broyles. "Until we do something about it, our people with continue to die."

Nor is government likely to run with a ball that the community itself has failed to pick up. "Going into the second decade of AIDS, we have still not developed a bureaucratic infrastructure" to deal with the crisis, says Ronald Johnson of New York's Minority Task Force on AIDS. Neither on the federal, state, or local level have governments implemented an effective mechanism for delivering health care and social services, nor a strategy for developing effective medical interventions. "The research agenda has got to be refocused and rethought," says Johnson. Clinical trials should include more people of color and women. Research should extend beyond antivirals to other therapies and approaches. It is crucial to get the federal Centers for Disease Control to broaden the definition of AIDS so that it recognizes the opportunistic infections commonly appearing in women, a task which Johnson characterizes as "jousting with a windmill."

"There are blinders on the scientific mind," says Keith Cylar of New York's Housing Works. "That is a manifestation of racism." Cylar believes that the medical establishment must focus on the unique pathology of HIV in people of color. We have no idea how AIDS drugs work in men of color, in IV drug users, in women. "I am terrified that we are going to find a cure for AIDS," says Cylar, "and it won't work in people of color." Or, he says, that a cure will be found, and people of color won't have access to it, because of inadequate health facilities, medical insurance, or the whole range of infrastructure problems that block access to health. The recent Veterans Administration study of AZT, which essentially claimed that the drug doesn't work in blacks and Latinos, highlights the importance of studying how drugs work—and how AIDS manifests differently—in different populations. "The government is ignoring that," says Cylar.

The problems facing black gay men and lesbians—racism, enforced poverty, the drug culture, violent and pervasive homophobia—are not new, but they pose new and more threatening dangers in the age of AIDS. Now more than ever, the right to care about one's own life, and the means to care for one's own health, safety, and welfare, must be secured, or the poverty of a community's privilege will continue to be reflected in the obscene overabundance of its deaths.

Pride and Prejudice

African-Amerian Lesbians and Gay Men Celebrate Coast to Coast

By Mark Haile and Eric Washington

It was a colorful Lesbian and Gay Pride Month, with coast-to-coast pageantry and controversy. Well over a million lesbians, gay men and their supporters marched, paraded or otherwise celebrated, while more than a dozen cities in the United States had their first observance of lesbian and gay pride; other ongoing events experienced their most voluminous and vociferous numbers of people of color ever.

In some cities, inclusion of African-Americans came much more smoothly than in years past, while in other parts of the country, white gay men repeated the same oppressive, exclusive patterns of their heterosexual counterparts.

NEWS FEATURE

For each of the major parades, the significant image for lesbian and gay African-Americans to take home was the visibility offered, regardless of the level of lobbying, arguing, fundraising or negotiating that went on all year long to make it so.

Here are but a few of the efforts and results to put black lesbians and gay men in the pride celebrations across America.

NEW YORK. "I'm going to miss *Outweek,*" confessed Jennie Livingston. filmmaker of *Paris Is Burning* addressing the 17,000 lesbians and gay men gathered in Union Square for the 22nd annual New York City lesbian and gay pride festivities. "Because, through *Outweek,* we all had a voice. And I'll certainly miss Thurgood Marshall."

The seemingly incongruous retirements of *Outweek* magazine and Thurgood Marshall were but a sampling of the myriad and disparate topics on the minds and lips of those who had made their way to New York for pride weekend. For five hours lesbian and gay pilgrims convened, reunited, spritzed, hugged, kissed, canvassed, hawked journals and T-shirts and badges and flyers and party invites, noshed, and listened with inconstant attentiveness to the broadcast of voices under a relentless Saturday afternoon sun. Heritage of Pride (HOP), organizers of the rally, parade and dance on the Christopher St. pier, assembled a diverse roster of speakers and entertainers under this year's themes, "Out, Loud and Proud" and "Here Without Fear."

"We will not go back from here," said Sandra J. Lowe, a staff attorney for Lambda Legal Defense in a keynote address. "We will not go back ten years, we will not go back one year. We are going forward!... We will keep the hope in the Constitution alive in this country!"

Sgt. Perry Watkins, who successfully appealed the U.S. Supreme Court for his 1984 discharge from the Army for being homosexual, appeared in full military uniform on Saturday before a crowd that was largely comprised of vehement opponents to the recent gulf war amidst the thunder of cheers.

Of the musical and comedy acts that made an impression were the interracial male *a cappella* group the Flirtations and the lesbian reggae duo Casselberry-Dupree. They made mention of their effort to have signers of color for the deaf and hearing impaired brought to the stage. "Another one of many things that are on the back burner that we have to keep talking about it and put it on the front burner." Thelma Houston sang her hit, "Don't Leave Me This Way" and Crystal Waters, whose "Gypsy Woman (She's Homeless)" is making her an almost instantaneous star. Waters introduced a new song about AIDS, called "Small Cry," from her newly released debut album.

Falling into ranks behind the parade's Grand Marshals Deborah Glick, the first open lesbian to be elected to the New York State Legislature, and performer and AIDS-activist Michael Callen, were hundreds of groups ranging from the purely social, like the Sirens Motorcycle Club, to the political, like Queer Nation. The Grand Marshals were inadvertently overshadowed for much of the route by Phil Donahue and Marlo Thomas, who filed in behind them and garnered most of the crowd's attention.

Black lesbians and gay men were more conspicuous as parade participants than as onlookers. While being represented in varying degrees in practically all of the most notable groups such as ACT-UP, Queer Nation and Gay Men's Health Crisis, blacks dominated many of the other contingents such as Other Countries Black Gay Writers, Lavender Light Gospel Choir, African American Wimmin United for Social Change, National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays, Gay Men of African Descent (GMAD) and Men of All Colors Together (MACT).

"Shame, shame, shame," the familiar cry rehearsed by ACT-UP groups from several states and their supporters, was chanted as they approached St. Patrick's Cathedral, seat of John Cardinal O'Connor. Facing the cathedral across Fifth Ave. on 50th St., corralled away from the marchers, was the patch of born again Christians who come to denounce the marchers every year. "Got AIDS Yet?" read one sign that was typical of the vitriolic messages that were scrawled on poster boards and waved at the marchers. One marcher saw fit to dismiss the group, who numbered only about a dozen this year, by showering them with a fistful of glitter.

At 2:30 p.m., the entire five mile stretch of marchers between Columbus Circle and Greenwich Village came to a halt. In a moment of silence for the hundreds of thousands who have died of AIDS, many bowed their heads, or wept. Many held clenched fists aloft, several clutching pink ribbons with the words "We Remember" printed upon them, followed by an inscribed name of a lost friend or relative.

The march route was hit for about 15 minutes halfway through by a heavy downpour, for some a relief from the

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day's heat and humidity. Cheers heard by one lesbian contingent during the brief storm: "We're here, we're queer, we're wet!" The rain passed, leaving behind a bright sky and a cool, breezy afternoon.

The day's final highlight was the Dance on the Pier, which attracted about 9,000 to disco under the stars. Nona Hendryx was the featured entertainer, backdropped by the Empire State Building whose tower was illuminated by lavender spotlights throughout the weekend for Gay Pride. After Hendryx performed the evening was capped off by fireworks over the Hudson River.

Oakland/San Francisco. San Francisco, host of the nation's pre-eminent—even if not always the largest—pride celebration, enjoyed unseasonably hot weather for the 1991 Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade and celebration June 30.

The city's largest parade, with estimates ranging at about a third of a million participants, reaped the benefits of the cooperation of local activists at long last with other organizers throughout California which meant that many lesbians and gay men throughout the state were able to attend their own local celebrations and San Francisco's as well.

Saturday night before the parade saw a quarter of a million people crammed into eight blocks of the Castro-Upper Market areas for the first-ever "Pink Party" street festival. Proceeds from the event are to be split among lesbian, gay and AIDS service organizations in the Bay Area, including the Gay Men of Color AIDS consortium.

Organizers of the Pink Party have been arguing among themselves and in public, putting a cloud over the prospects of rapid dispersal of profits, and even threatening the annual Halloween celebration in the Castro. San Francisco activist Joe Van Es-Ballesteros complained, "we had to fight Ken Bunch (of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Inc.) every inch of the way in order to include organizations serving communities of color and women as beneficiaries of the event," referring to the past history of the organizers. Bunch is better known by his moniker "Sister Power-Hungry Bitch" when he goes about in drag.

While much smaller, the East Bay celebration of Unity on Saturday night was much more colorful. "The Night Before" was an evening of entertainment, performance art and dance that will benefit the February, 1992 National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference in Oakland.

The Unity contingent, leading the San Francisco parade, brought together the varied African-American Lesbian and Gay groups from throughout the Bay area in a dramatic show of numbers for the second year in a row.

The theme, "Hand in Hand Together" was exemplified by "Hot Colors," the coordinated effort among people of color organizations.

Hot Colors, which represents some 24 organizations that participate in Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day, had made charges that the parade committee made both racist comments and decisions concerning the participation of people of color.

The controversy had begun on April 21, when a planning meeting for the people of color's involvement in the parade received word that the annual benefit held the last three years to ensure participation would not take place.

Parade co-chair Edward Goehring, while attending the meeting, promised to ask the full board of directors to then drop the marching fees for the organizations.

Goehring did, in fact, present the request for fee waivers at a May 20 meeting, but did not succeed in the attempt. A compromise was reached finally on June 3, whereby Hot Colors would pay a $25 fee for each member group, which was reluctantly accepted by the groups out of fear of being left out of the parade altogether.

Goehring, at odds with co-chair Linda Lopez to the point that the two were constantly locked in battle, released a memo just four days before the parade, accusing the board with having made racist comments. By the time the parade had begun, at least one lawsuit was filed by board members against the co-chair, and at least three board members were ready to resign.

Most of the last minute chaos among the parade organizers was unknown to the hundreds of thousands of participants outside of the Hot Colors groups, but controversy is more often present from year to year for parade organizers than sunshine.

The bickering among the parade committee left members of Hot Colors bitter, annoyed and frustrated at their participation being belittled into the pawn in a political chess game of the all-white board.

Los Angeles. The Los Angeles Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade brought out not only record numbers of participants and onlookers, but a record amount of attention from the mainstream media as well.

An accurate representation of the ethnic diversity of Southern California has been a hot issue in the community for many years, as many people of color would stay away on the assumption that the parade "wasn't for them."

Unified contingents of people of color, such as the Gay Asian-Pacific Consortium made up of members of the Gay Asian-Pacific Support Network, Barangay and Asian-Pacific Lesbians and Gays; and organizations which had an overwhelming presence, as did the Minority AIDS Project's float and marchers; helped dispel that myth.

Members of the Unity Fellowship Church, the staff of the Minority AIDS Project, volunteers and people with AIDS made a dramatic impact for the 360,000 onlookers.

Heartening too, was the increased visibility of women of color in the parade, as exemplified by an ebullient group from the United Lesbians of African Heritage proudly lifting signs behind their bright purple and black banner like "Blatant Black Lesbians" and "Black Women Loving Women!"

Volunteers from a number of Los Angeles organizations, including the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, made a visible impact not just at the parade, but at the festival as well. In addition to staffing their own booth, members of the Forum staffed critical posts with Christopher Street West, selling and collecting tickets to the festival.

The African-American Gay and Lesbian Cultural Alliance booth was fortuitously next door to the newly formed Gay and Lesbian Arab organization in Los Angeles, which allowed for a cultural exchange and dialogue that lasted through the entire festival.

The Los Angeles festival, with its $10 admission for each day, is the most expensive celebration of its kind in the country. The cost to enter the festival had risen because of the uncertainty of insurance and other costs to mount the celebration. In response to pressure from community groups concerned over accessibility and elitism, the Christopher Street West board members began giving the profits back to the community in the form of grants to non-profit organizations.

Baltimore. Baltimore's lesbian and gay pride celebration became lively after its pride guide became the center of controversy, when it was pointed out to contain almost exclusively images of white males. The racism and sexism in the

publication resulted in a letter of protest to the pride committee, made up solely of gay white men, from the directors of the William Wolfe Institute, the educational component of the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Baltimore.

The issue dominated a June 4th board meeting, and will be an issue for the board's retreat in August as well.

While diversity and inclusivity were present among the participants to the parade and festival, the board admitted that in recruiting, "Most of us when putting together a volunteer committee ask our friends."

The William Wolf Institute letter noted that of the paid advertising in the pride guide, there was only one African-American business person, and no black bars were listed. In the 23 pictures in the guide, the photos show 20 white men, two black women, and one white women. Baltimore is almost 60 percent black. The inside back cover, they also noted, was a full page advertisement of a mayoral candidate with "a blatantly racist" campaign platform. "No committee, event, program or activity of the center should ever be composed of all white men" the institute stated, suggesting the GLGCB leadership publicly adopt a policy of anti-racism and anti-sexism, and that policies be enacted to ensure the center never represents itself to the public as a racist, sexist, institution.

GLCLB president Mardie Walker addressed the issue in an open letter saying, "As to the pride committee's composition, frankly, I'm pleased that white men in our community worked so hard to put on a party for all of us. Black lesbians especially spend too much of their life's energy doing 'fund-raising' just for their own families, given the triple discrimination they experience for being black, gay and female. Too many events depend on women and people of color, whether paid low wages or volunteers, to do the setting up and cleaning up. Was I offended that it was white men who spent long hours getting the park ready for Pride Day or cleaning up all the trash and garbage left behind? Definitely not."

Very visible around Baltimore's pride celebration was newly appointed Baltimore city AIDS coordinator Brenda Pridgen, with pledges to make herself accessible and to make her appointment meaningful. Mayor Schmoke also made an appearance at the pride celebration.

Chicago. Chicago celebrated Gay Pride Day with the sixth annual Black Lesbian and Gay Picnic at Belmont Rocks Beach on the shore of Lake Michigan. Some 5,000 people danced after the parade to a sound system provided by the Clubhouse, enjoying barbecue until 9 p.m. that evening.

Among the members of Chicago's black lesbian and gay community in this years parade were Men of All Colors Together; Joan Jett Blakk, the mayor of Queer Chicago; a float representing Henry's Palace; the B.R.O.T.H.E.R.R.S. Project; and *Thing* magazine.

The pride celebration was preceded by the inauguration of the first Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame awards to two organizations and ten individuals, whose portraits and biographies will remain on permanent display at the Museum of the Chicago Historical Society. Among the first group inducted into the Hall of Fame are the late Ortez Alderson, Carol Johnson and Max Smith.

Ortez Alderson was involved in gay activism from the emergence of the Chicago Gay Liberation Front in 1969, until his death from AIDS in December, 1990.

Carol Johnson is the Midwest AIDS Project coordinator for the Service Employees International Union. A certified therapist, she has been active in a variety of lesbian and gay organizations and worked within heterosexual organizations as well, from the United Way of Chicago to the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays.

Max Smith has been involved in the NAACP, Operation PUSH, and has even engaged Minister Louis Farrakhan and other black clergy face-to-face on their homophobia. His involvement in Chicago's lesbian and gay community has ranged from the Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force to the Black Bible Study Group.

San Diego. San Diego's Gay Pride Celebration on July 20 and 21 has become one of this country's most multicultural, from it's board of directors to their pride theme "Together in Pride/Conjunto en Orgullo." "Together in Pride" was chosen as the theme for 1991 lesbian and gay pride celebrations by the International Association of Lesbian/Gay Pride coordinators, but San Diego is the first city on the U.S. mainland, by translating the theme into Spanish, to acknowledge the significant number of Latinos within the community, in addition to the relationship of San Diego to Tijuana, Mexico, which not only shares a common border with San Diego; but is home to about half of the nearly half million lesbian and gay men in the unique bi-national urban area.

Honored as 1991 Woman of the Year is M. Corinne Mackey, prominent San Diego lesbian activist and writer. Mackey has performed her original theater pieces at the San Diego Art Walk, the Lesbian Community Cultural Arts Festival, and the Juneteenth Celebration of the African-American Museum of Fine Art. Her work, *The Gathering*, was performed at the Lyceum. Her columns and commentary have been published in both San Diego and national lesbian and gay publications.

Featured in the program for this year's celebration was Lesbians and Gays of African Descent United (LAGADU), who in 1989 became the first African-American lesbian and gay organization to march in San Diego's pride parade.

Also featured in the program was BWMT/San Diego, revived in 1990.

LAGADU and San Diego activist-artist-performer Fundi are also among the entertainment for the Pride Festival.

The recognition is impressive as San Diego, California's second largest city, has a long history of conservatism that overlooks the existence of lesbians and gay men of color.

By contrast, the Los Angeles area has had a population where people of color have been the majority for years without any information from Gay Pride organizers ever being translated.

And Elsewhere. This was not only a year of massive turnouts in America's major cities for lesbian and gay pride celebrations as more and more small towns and rural areas staged their own local celebrations. Organizers had every reason to be as proud of a turnout of 100 to 500 people as Los Angeles, San Francisco and New York did for parades a thousand times the size.

Even though some celebrations such as in Orange County, California, which had been literally forced off the streets and held on the safer grounds of the University of California, Irvine, many of those who marched in the parades this year did so right on Main St., U.S.A., in front of their entire community [in front of God and everybody].

Casselberry and Dupreé came out to Cape Cod to perform for a very wet celebration, because, as Urvashi Vaid, director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force told the 300 or so present, "This is where the movement exists. This is where gay men and lesbians live."

Vaid and Perry Watkins are probably the two most travel-

weary activists of this year's pride celebrations, called upon to stir the participants across the United States.

Sgt. Perry Watkins spoke at the Milwaukee Lesbian Gay Pride '91 Rally at Juneau Park following the parade. The Rev. Renee McCoy officiated a moving vows of commitment ceremony for some 50 couples. Watkins was at Lansing, Mich. as well, for that city's fifth Annual March and Festival for gay and lesbian rights on June 23. After traveling across the country, while riding down Broadway in Seattle's 1991 Lesbian/Gay Pride Parade, Watkins rode in a float festooned with a giant red, white and blue flag with yellow ribbons that unfortunately caught fire and broke down before making its way to Volunteer Park. Once safely at the park, Perry enjoyed his hometown's rally with his mother and nearly 50,000 other revelers.

Many other cities, too, have wavered from the custom of holding their pride events in late June, as it offers local residents the chance to visit other's celebrations. Long Beach now hosts the kickoff event of the year each May, as local officials had outlawed any events taking over city parks in June (saying that it wasn't fair, as summer was the most popular time for park usage by the public).

The final pride event will most likely be the Pomona Valley Pride Festival on Oct. 12 in Claremont, in conjunction with National Coming Out Day.

Philadelphia only had one parade this year, which saw Mayor Wilson Goode and Councilmember Angel Ortiz marching, followed by performances by Jennifer Holliday and Thelma Houston at the Pride Festival Dance Party on June 1 after the parade. Proceeds from the event went to Action AIDS. It was a much improved situation after the division that wracked the '90 celebration.

Puerto Rico held its first Gay Pride parade on June 23 with the theme "Herencia de Orgullo Gay Puertorriqueño" (Heritage of Puerto Rican Gay Pride).

Some 200 participants marched through the Condado district of San Juan as another 1,500 cheered on from the sidelines. Limousines carried representatives from a number of local bars and businesses, in addition to marchers from a number of organizations including the San Juan contingent of ACT-UP, Colectivo de Lesbianas Feministas, PFLAG, the student group at the University of Puerto Rico, and Fundación SIDA. A festival took place following the hour-long parade at the Village Disco in Condado.

San Jose, Calif. celebrated its first Gay Pride Parade in 16 years on June 9, in addition to its annual two day festival. Both the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and the City of San Jose declared June 3-9 "Lesbian and Gay Pride Week." Despite the defacing of a dozen posters advertising the festival and parade, more than 5,000 people lined the streets and with their families enjoyed the festival at the Santa Clara Fairgrounds.

The Triangle Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays and North Carolinians Against Racist and Religious Violence were but two of the organizations that participated in North Carolina's Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade that marched through Durham on June 29 to a rally at Duke University.

After all of the name-calling, bickering and counter accusations die down among the various boards, organizations and coalitions that put on, at great personal sacrifice with little thanks, the hundreds of pride celebrations in *this* country, South Africa will for the second time attempt to mount the only lesbian and gay pride parade in Africa. Buoyed by the success of last year's parade, organizers plan to hold a national conference to bring together all the parts of their diverse population to prepare a charter for lesbian and gay rights. Who would have believed that an *integrated* South African Lesbian and Gay Pride Celebration would arise taking its inspiration from the United States?

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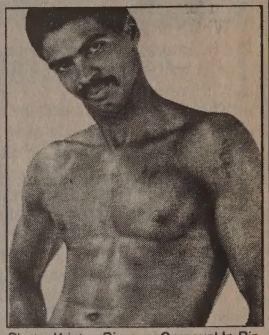

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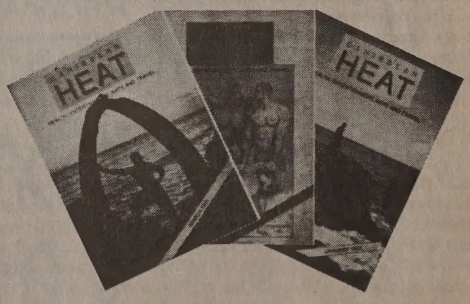

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Black Ministers Protest Lesbian, Gay Rights Bill

SACRAMENTO—Legislation that would prohibit job and housing discrimination against lesbians and gay men in California brought over 300 ministers and their congregations to include basketball player Ralph Sampson of the Sacramento Kings, to the Capital steps on March 15 in protest against the bill. The vast majority of the protesters were African-Americans.

Dr. Phillip Goudeax, a pastor at the mostly black Calvary Christian Center in Sacramento argued that "I am against discrimination, but I am against giving gays minority status ...The homosexual agenda is to get special privileges."

According to Lauri McBride of the lesbian and gay Lobby for Individual Freedom and Equality (LIFE), "AB101 does not grant anyone special privileges. AB101 would simply ensure that equal treatment under the law exists for all Californians regardless of their sexual orientation."

Rev. Lou Sheldon of the anti-gay Traditional Values Coalition, who is white, stated that "very clearly the black community realizes that the homosexual agenda is a parasite within the true Civil Rights Movement." Sheldon told the *Orange County Register*, "Black ministers have not had a voice and they are now thrilled that I can work for them."

Assembly Speaker Willie Brown, untered that "[Sheldon and his followers] are not for fair employment practices; they're not for affirmative action. They're not for any of those things that the black cats are for...They wouldn't be lined up with [black ministers] on any other issues. You could say it's hypocritical, it's certainly un-Christian like."

Sheldon also told the *Orange County Register* that he did not support the Federal Civil Rights Act, despite the mistaken belief by several of the black clergyman that he did.

Advanced publicity for the protest included a flyer that was forwarded to BLK from LIFE, which stated in part that "a new proposed law will give homosexuals, i.e., transvestites, sadist, pedophiles, lesbians, gays and beastiality the same minority status as blacks, Hispanics and Asians...True minorities are insulted, you can't change the color of your skin, but a person chooses their sexual orientation." It went on to falsely claim that "AB101 would challenge affirmative action and minority scholarships and programs, and force landlords and employers to hire "sexual deviants."

Assemblymen Terry Friedman, author of the bill, in his response to the California Legislature, blasted opponents of AB101 for their distortions and lies in trying to defeat the measure. Friedman said, "Enough is enough! From the time AB101 was introduced, the opposition has raised nothing but unabashed lies in opposition to the bill. We cannot allow extremist to stop AB101 by fabricating outlandish arguments that are intended to promote hysteria. The time has come to expose and stop these lies."

Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, president and founder of the National Rainbow Coalition, Inc., in his testimony to the California State Legislature, stated in part that "We all gain when democracy and justice are expanded. The greatness of this nation rests on contributions made by African-Americans, women, lesbians, and gays, and all the other patches that made up the great patchwork quilt of this nation. Yet none of these patches were a part of the vision of the writers of the constitution. Those writers believed that their own mothers, sisters, and daughters were not fit to vote, that people of African-American descent were three fifths people, that Native Americans were not fit to live. Today we see the destruction of that narrow vision. We must continue to expand the streams of democracy, let the backwaters run into the mainstream and create a mighty river of equality. I urge you to support AB101, and affirm our commitment to equal rights and justice."

The ministers argued that homosexuals don't deserve protection because they are not a "legitimate minority."

But according to a Questions and Answers pamphlet produced by LIFE, "Some define "legitimate minority" as something we have no control over, like ancestry, ethnicity or race. An individuals sexual orientation they argue, is a matter of choice, and therefore is not a basis for equal treatment under the law. Even if some hold to this opinion that homosexuality is a "choice," the Fair Employment and Housing Act already protects two classes that are a matter of choice; religion and marital status."

In response to charges that AB101 would require employers to meet quotas or affirmative action programs for the hiring of lesbians and gay men LIFE says no, AB101 has absolutely nothing to do with quotas, goals, timetables or affirmative action programs.

Rev. Dorsey O. Blake, director of the Center for Urban Black Studies in Berkeley, spoke in support of AB101 stating that "It is a question of justice that AB101 raises; and, as such, not only is consistent with the struggle to include persons and groups who were not named or identified in that struggle; but would surely have to be included and identified as being among the oppressed."

On June 4 on the steps of the California State Office Building in San Francisco, a coalition of black leaders in the Bay Area also spoke out in favor of AB101, including Rev. Amos Brown of San Francisco's Third Baptist Church. Rev. Brown, who does not have a reputation of strongly embracing gay rights, nevertheless endorsed the bill, stating "Whenever we push another person down, it degrades all of us." Also speaking out on behalf of AB101 were Rev. Cecil Williams of Glide Memorial United Methodist Church, Bishop Melvin Talbert, and Aileen Hernandez, a former member of the U.S. Equal Opportunity Commission.

Rev. Brown promised to take the matter before the National Baptist Convention.

Support for AB101 among African Americans stands at 57 percent according to a poll commissioned by the *Washington Blade*, higher than among any other ethnicity. Activists have suggested that Sheldon's campaign aims to "drive a wedge between the African American community and the gay and lesbian community," as described by Cleve Jones of San Francisco.

Joe Hawkins, chair of BMX/Sacramento who also testified before the California State Legislature on behalf of black lesbian and gay men told BLK that, "BMX has been actively involved in bringing this issue to the black community and is working with chapters across the state as well, to encourage other black gay and lesbian organizations and friends of our community to support AB101 with cards and phone calls to their assemblymember, state senator, and to the governor."

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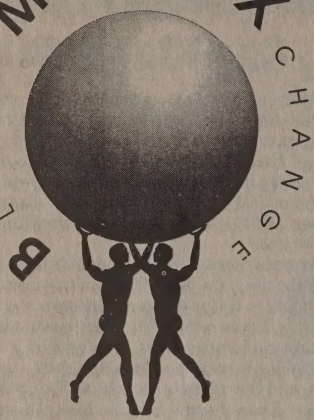

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Librarians Protest Use of Langston Hughes Poetry

By Mark Haile, BLK Assistant Editor

LOS ANGELES—Los Angeles City librarians found themselves uncomfortably and uncustomarily in the spotlight at the center of a controversy revolving around the identification of Langston Hughes as a black gay man.

June 1991 was designated "Lesbian and Gay History Month" for the Los Angeles Public Library, the second largest public library system in the United States. The City Librarian, Elizabeth Martinez Smith, fully encouraged and endorsed the concept, giving lesbian and gay history month similar status to Black History Month and other observances. Members of the library's Gay and Lesbian United Employees (GLUE) even asked the librarian to lunch to express their appreciation.

The furor began with the dissemination of posters and pamphlets describing the celebration. The posters read "Lesbian and Gay History Month," with the poem "Tell Me," by Langston Hughes on the left:

Why should it be my *loneliness,*
Why should it be my *song,*
Why should it be my *dream*
Deferred
Overlong?

Several librarians, members of the California Librarians Black Caucus, voiced an immediate disapproval of the inclusion of the Langston Hughes poem as though Hughes's work could speak only to blacks and for blacks, and called use of the black poet laureate "insensitive and divisive." The outrage resulted in Smith ordering that the hundreds of posters and thousands of bibliographies of works by lesbian and gay authors that had included Hughes be removed and destroyed. Ironically, the Hughes poem was printed over a pink triangle, the symbol used a half century ago to identify gay men in Nazi concentration camps.

New posters and pamphlets were printed for the public libraries before the end of Lesbian and Gay Pride Month, but the effect of the censoring was felt citywide at readings and film screenings scheduled as part of the observance.

Several of Los Angeles's most prominent lesbian and gay authors, invited to kick off the series of readings included poems by Hughes, the "Tell Me" poem in particular, at the reading held in the auditorium of the library's central branch on Spring St. The poem was also included by the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum in its Gay Pride newsletter in response to the furor.

Smith said in a memo distributed to the library staff that "a major reason for my decision was concern for the wishes of the Hughes family," in reference to the late George Houston Bass, who had blocked every attempt to portray Hughes as gay in court.

Bass, private secretary to Hughes who died in 1967, had been trustee of the estate until his own death last October. There was no immediate blood family of Hughes left alive.

Prior to his death, Bass had successfully forced Isaac Julien's film, *Looking for Langston* to be re-edited, with passages of Hughes work removed, before it could be shown in the United States. With Bass's death, it isn't immediately clear how the Hughes estate will suppress accounts of Langston Hughes's gay life—what little information that exists on the matter.

The controversy within the library and throughout the community was not satisfied with the excuse of lawsuits by dead men. In a letter from GLUE to the City Librarian, they stated, "We can imagine no objection to the inclusion of the magnificent Langston Hughes poem, "Tell Me," that is not either ignorant, bigoted or irrelevant."

The issue of homophobia was downplayed by the City Librarian office, and denied by the Black Librarian's Caucus, but as GLUE member Cosmo Bua noted, "obviously if Hughes's quote had been used for 'Left-Handed History Month' there would have been no problem."

Although the number of librarians who actually complained to the City Librarian's office was set at only five—and anonymous at that—the added weight of the Board of Library Commissioners may have helped tip the scales in favor of the censoring.

The issue of the censorship was a bitter one with GLUE, nevertheless they sat down with the affirmative action committee and again with Smith to help plan workshops to promote understanding among the many diverse groups of employees in the library system.

Many GLUE members, still in the closet because of the type of homophobia exhibited in the Hughes incident, were dismayed that the mood of the unparalleled optimism prior to the June observance had changed to the point that the very future of the celebration is now at stake.

The Librarians Guild has communicated with Smith in regard to the methodology of her handling of the affair, which she admitted could have been handled differently. Her aim, she said, had been to avoid controversy.

Even with the sensitivity workshops among library employees, almost all of the library's available materials on lesbians and gay men are to be found at the central branch's temporary location, which is suffering from a lack of visibility of its own while the landmark library building is being rebuilt. There are between 5- and 10,000 lesbian and gay related titles in the system, yet more that two thirds of the 65 branches do not have a single lesbian or gay book.

By contrast, the Los Angeles County Library has lesbian and gay titles in over 40 percent of its 90 branches. While there is no special lesbian and gay history collection in either the city or county library system, the county has at the West Hollywood branch an HIV information center that is unsurpassed throughout the country. Librarians at the branch are up to date on information and sources for information that daily they provide to politicians, health care providers, and the news media on top of serving the needs of people directly affected by HIV.

No plans for such an HIV information center have been announced as yet for the city library system, although the lack of availability of such essential life-affecting information is what lead to Bua founding GLUE three years ago as his lover was dying of AIDS.

The few original signs featuring the Hughes poem that escaped destruction have become one of the most sought after souvenirs of 1991's Lesbian and Gay Pride Celebration, and one of it's symbols of the controversies that are part and parcel of the efforts for inclusion. No dollar figure was available at press time on the cost to the city for replacing the signs and pamphlets.

Of the black lesbian and gay librarians, Bua told BLK that there were some who were members of GLUE, yet the sudden media spotlight on the organization, which keeps no list of it's members, keeps most of them from being open.

Bua noted that the inability of librarians to be open on the job, coupled with the invisibility of lesbian and gay authors, adds to the difficulty for lesbian and gay youth to find the very types of role models that the heterosexual black librarians claimed they were trying to preserve. "We are in the middle of a holocaust for the gay community," he said, "precisely because of the same un-examined homophobia under which the city librarian operates."

L.A. County Sheriff Enforcement Efforts Fail to Spoil Merry Mood of 2000 at July 4th Malibu Beach Party

By Mark Haile, BLK Assistant Editor
Photos by Bruce Hunt

MALIBU, Calif.—What started out as the third annual gathering of friends became a beach party of over 2000 black lesbians and gay men over the Fourth of July weekend.

The day-long affair began with contests and sports at Point Dume Beach, ending in the early hours of the morning at a mid-Wilshire after-party.

Almost all the participants enjoyed the day long event, despite reports of intense harassment by the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department that included surveillance and pressure on the partygoers to leave.

The throngs of beachgoers brought every manner of gazebos, canopies and picnic blankets with them, including an information table from the Minority AIDS Project providing information about safe sex.

Although the crowd was festive, and there were no incidents during the beach party, the County Sheriff's Malibu Station grew alarmed when the numbers of people started swelling without any prior knowledge on the part of officials that a party of that size was taking place.

"It was somewhat...an event of concern to us in terms of the numbers and the response that we initially got from some members of the group," said Lt. Michael Moore of operations at the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Malibu Station. "We have to take somewhat of a proactive stance."

In the prior beach parties held the last two summers, however, there was no interference by County Sheriff's deputies.

The sheer size of the crowd and a stepped up policy of rigorous enforcement of the prohibition of alcohol on public beaches was the primary motivation for what Moore termed "prudent" procedures. "Enforcement efforts are in accordance with the attendance," said Moore, noting, "that it was a relatively cohesive 2000 people represents a different initial problem."

The County of Los Angeles has been publicly announcing via television, radio and newspapers that alcohol on public beaches is a serious hazard, as well as illegal, and would not be tolerated.

The high degree of concern among residents of recently-incorporated Malibu over the number of accidents caused by drunken beachgoers, coupled with alarm expressed after an earlier riot between rival inner city gangs at nearby Zuma Beach that caught Sheriff deputies unaware, were widely thought by the partygoers to be the motivating factors for the land, sea and air incursion on the party. A number of participants who spoke with BLK said emphatically that it was clear the Sheriff deputies attempted to intimidate them into leaving from the moment they made their appearance on the

scene.

Phill Wilson, coordinator of AIDS services for the city of Los Angeles, said that "the sheriffs were hovering around. They stopped cars from coming into the parking lot. By 1 p.m. there was almost no one but blacks [in the parking lot]."

The parking lot nearest the party was closed by deputies about 1 p.m. in an attempt to discourage new arrivals, even though it was far from filled to capacity. Late arriving participants walked up to a mile after that to get to the party activities.

Some participants thought they saw Sheriff deputies continue to let carloads of white beachgoers into the Point Dume parking lot, a point emphatically denied by the County Sheriff's Malibu Station.

The presence of alcohol was the focal point of discussions between those taking responsibility for the party and Sheriff's deputies. A check point was set up on the trail to the party, and coolers by the hundreds were searched for alcohol which was dumped out on the spot.

A dozen deputies on foot were supplemented by mounted officers on horseback who rode between picnic blankets. There was some tension in the air at the presence of Sheriff's deputies, with individual deputies being apprehensive as well.

Officers videotaped the crowds as they walked through the party, as well as from the low flying helicopter and a cutter off shore.

Both the United States Coast Guard and the County Sheriff's Malibu Station deny that the boat was under their jurisdiction; but it's presence with officers on board was cited by a number of those present.

More annoying was the helicopter, flying at altitudes witnesses called "dangerously low," kicking up sand and blaring continuously that alcohol was not permitted on the beach at a deafening noise level.

While witnesses confirm that alcohol was widespread among partygoers, many were angered that intimidation seemed more the aim of the deputies.

As beachgoers left the party, every driver was reportedly given a sobriety check, with passengers in some instances being asked to take the wheel if the driver had been drinking, to which Lt. Moore noted, "we have an obligation to keep drunk drivers off the road."

Only a few citations were issued overall for alcohol. There were no arrests, and no major confrontations occurred between the crowd and deputies. Normally, each and every violator would have been cited as well as having their alcohol confiscated and dumped. Although the paddy wagon on hand was never used, it's mere existence in the parking lot was an indication that the Sheriff's deputies were trying to be prepared for any contingency. The enormity of the crowd made deputies decide on what was in their viewpoint a more relaxed posture of enforcement.

"We felt somewhat distressed," said Moore, "that the persons who were responsible for organizing and supervising didn't exercise the control and responsibility to educate these people that this is an alcohol-free beach."

"I think that...in that there were no incidents, arrests, no disturbances, and nobody got hurt, the protection of life and property is our primary mission and concern here, not how many tickets you can write."

In terms of the long-criticized tactic of Sheriff's deputies videotaping lesbians and gay men at the beach in the absence of any criminal activity, Moore acknowledged, "there's no question that the group was monitored in order to make certain that things did not get out of hand, that we didn't have to do anything."

Groups from ACT-UP to the ACLU have long decried the lesbian and gay public event taping policy. While no verbal racial or homophobic comments were reported by any of the partygoers who spoke with BLK, one person noted, "They knew it was gay. They would have to have been blind not to know." Another witness who called the party "inspirational," said the deputies were "assholes. They were trying to wear us down; but we wouldn't give them the satisfaction."

Others agreed that "while the sheriffs made things tense, it didn't ruin our day. We were having too good of a time."

Others called the turnout at the party "amazing," and "incredible." Word of mouth has spread on the annual beach gathering to cities around the country. At least half of the participants were thought to be visitors to Los Angeles from the San Francisco Bay Area and from Detroit, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C. and other cities.

During the afternoon, the partygoers enjoyed volleyball and other beach games, and participated in a variety of contests.

There was a best body contest for men, and a wet T-shirt contest for women, games of tag, costume races, relay races, with trophies awarded in about ten of the activities.

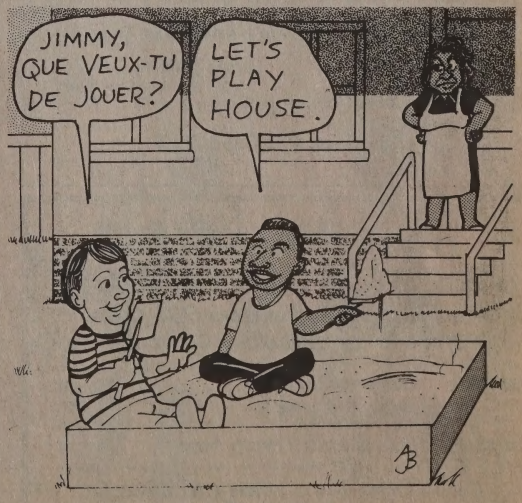
The number of women present was up considerably over the previous years, to between a third and half.

One of the group of friends who has been a part of the party from it's inception described it saying, "it's one of the few times we could be who we are. It's a day we can share energy with each other."

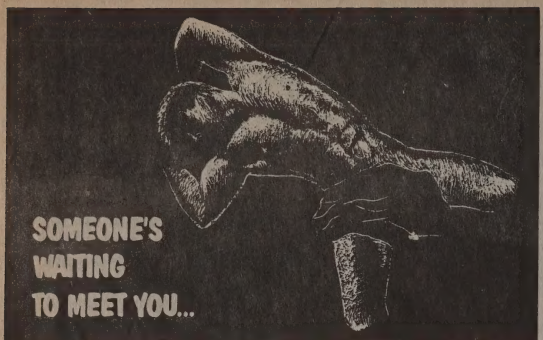
Approximately 800 revelers paid $10 each to attend the after party at the Park Plaza Hotel across from MacArthur Park later that evening, while another 200 waited to get in.

Despite the fact that some of those attending the after party had been drinking since early afternoon, the after party went smoothly, without those crowded inside or the unfortunate number outside who could not get in causing any disturbances.

The interior of the Park Plaza, especially it's dramatic staircase that leads to the ballroom, is recognizable immediately from any number of popular music videos. One of the fiercest black DJs in Los Angeles was brought in for the occasion, which kept the celebratory mood in place to the very end. The group putting together the after party has already started the search for a larger, equally elegant location for next year's event as the need has grown to move the festivities into a space twice the size.



Mrs. Baldwin first begins to suspect.



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Big Role for Women of Color in Troubled Confab

By Alycee J. Lane

ATLANTA—Over 3,000 lesbians converged in Atlanta on April 24 for what developed into a heated, controversial and often unorganized conference on the theme "Diversity, Solidarity, Empowerment." Designed as an opportunity for a diverse group of women to formulate a national lesbian agenda, the National Lesbian Conference (NLC) was immediately beset with dissention and distrust.

On the first day of events, the Latina caucus discovered that it was omitted from the conference schedule altogether, and the Native American lesbians were left without any space in which to meet. It was later found that the omissions were typographical errors, but by the time this information was relayed, lesbians of color organized and, in the middle of Friday's plenary program, took over the stage to protest not only the omissions but also other experiences of racism as well.

A spokeswoman for the group took the microphone to air the grievances, saying, "We have been told that they need to decide when we have a safe space, when we can vote, and that they make the decisions that determine our participation. We want to know: who is *they*?"

The group also demanded information on who was accountable and, "most importantly, we want to know who the phantom typist is." This was in reference to the unknown woman who made the typographical errors in the program.

Eventually, the NLC's steering committee agreed to meet with the lesbians of color the following morning. Throughout the remainder of the conference, however, various charges of exclusion and insensitivity persisted.

The NLC did provide a number of conference workshops on a wide range of topics, enabling women to come together to discuss their particular issues and concerns. Some of these included "Female Ejaculation," "What's Class Got to Do With It," anti-oppression training, and others. Also included was a concert extravaganza featuring such artists as Two Spirited Thunder People, the Washington Sisters, Lea Delaria, and Sue Fink, to name just a few.

Many of the problems that developed during the conference were linked to the steering committee's desire to create a "new process" of conference organizing, whereby the committee would cease its duties once the event was underway. This would, theoretically, allow attendees to make the NLC whatever they desired. The goal was to enable a truly democratic event.

Even the steering committee itself was structured to ensure the creation of a multi-cultural, multi-issue conference: it was comprised of not less than 50 percent lesbians of color, 5 percent older lesbians, and 20 percent lesbians with disabilities. Though the committee experienced a high turnover rate, it managed to maintain its parity.

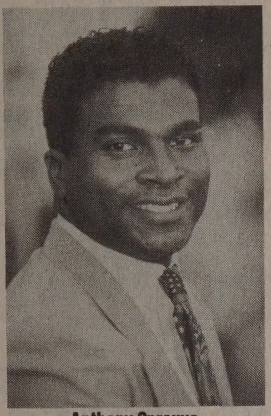
In spite of the difficulties faced, a national agenda did emerge from the conference proceedings, shaped extensively by the lesbians of color.

This agenda called for: an end to U.S. imperialism throughout the world; organizing the lesbian community against the upcoming 500 year anniversary of Columbus' so-called "discovery" of America; a national health care program; an end to the English-only movement; more Federal money to be spent on human needs and not U.S. militarism; an end to forced sterilization of women of color and protection of all women's right to choose; money for AIDS not for war; and to organize for the National March on Washington to be held in 1993 or 1994.

APLA Names Black Gay Man to Communications Post

By Karen Ocamb

LOS ANGELES—If he wasn't so debonair, Anthony Sprauve might be considered a hunk. But tall, dark, smart, suave and single 32-year-old Sprauve has his mind on his new mission: to let HIV-impacted people know that AIDS Project Los Angeles provides services that can help handle many aspects of the disease.



Anthony Sprauve

As APLA's new communications director, Sprauve is particularly concerned about getting the word out to the Los Angeles black lesbian and gay community. As part of that outreach effort, on Aug. 7 APLA is premiering the much-praised documentary *Paris Is Burning* about the black drag queens who originated Vogueing in Harlem nightclubs. There will be an after-screening party at Jewel's Catch One to which *anyone* dressed in drag will be admitted free.

Sprauve hopes to use the party as a way to introduce himself to the black lesbian and gay community. He also hopes he will not be incorrectly judged by the measure of success he has achieved.

Born in New York City, Sprauve grew up in a poor black neighborhood in Queens. His mother was the one with the high school degree in the loving, two-parent household. He spent 12 years in Catholic schools which did not shield either him or his three younger brothers from having friends die from gun shot wounds or AIDS and from having cousins who are still sitting in jail.

Sprauve graduated from Boston University in 1981 where he majored in Communications. He fell in love and "came out" as a college junior, an experience he calls "surprisingly painless" since he "lucked into an incredibly supportive family." Using "gay people radar," Sprauve also found friends at school who were coming out at the same time.

Actually being gay was not a problem for Sprauve. Growing up in New York City he understood that homosexuality is a "viable alternative" to heterosexuality. From puberty on, he experienced bisexual relationships, dating women and straight or curious men. He just never quite understood why such a big deal was made over sex—until he slept with a gay man. "Ah ha! So that's what it's all about!" he recalls telling himself afterwards. He's never "wrestled" with being gay since then.

After college, Sprauve landed a job writing public relations pitches and speeches for executives of NYNEX, the New York Telephone system. Shortly after he was promoted and transferred to New York, he left to work for the New York Times Company which owns the *New York Times* newspaper, 17 magazines, five TV stations, and 27 regional newspapers. In short order Sprauve became the company's public relations manager, writing speeches for the President, handling media relations, and producing the company's quarterly magazine. He thrived on the opportunity to be creative, "be a ham," and have a lot of responsiblity, flexibility, and visibility.

Though a well-paid speech writer and spokesperson for two major companies, Sprauve's proudest speeches have been to businesses that wanted to know about an AIDS-in-the-workplace program he developed. In 1983, NYEX mishandled an employee's AIDS diagnoisis. As the former volunteer head of PR at Boston's AIDS Action Committee, Sprauve suggested that the company start a workplace-oriented AIDS awareness program instead of simply countering the barrage of negative publicity. His programs where such a success that other companies asked for his advice. "It was important," Sprauve says.

His job at APLA is important too. "I need to get smart," he says, explaining that he is currently undergoing the APLA Hotline training course to learn all he can about AIDS. He just learned about women and AIDS, for instance, and how the CDC has failed to recognize or has misclassified opportunistic infections and signals that are peculiar to HIV manifestations in women.

Sprauve realizes that a hard part of his job will be explaining APLA services to an African American community that regards APLA for "white gay males" only. He admits that for a long time that reputation was "justifiably deserved." But, he says, APLA is getting its own house in order, recruiting more minority staff and bringing to the board of directors such respected businesspeople as Jewel Thaïs-Williams, who is APLA's board secretary, and Vallery Kounz, president of Republic Home Video. APLA is also examining how to make services like the Food Bank, doctor-referrals and support groups more accessible to those who need them, perhaps in conjunction with other community-based organizations.

The "proof will be in what APLA does," Sprauve says. "But I would not have moved here if I didn't fundamentally believe APLA's heart isn't in the right place. After ten years in corporate American with different Fortune 500 companies, I'm really excited about the chance to give back to the black and gay communities," he says.

Sprauve hopes for one more thing: to one day adopt a child with a loving, longtime companion. Sprauve hopes to carry on.

ACT-UP Targets AMA for Protest at Annual Meeting

By Antonio Sharp

CHICAGO—Several ACT-UP chapters demonstrated outside the Chicago Hilton and Towers where the American Medical Association (AMA) held its annual House of Delegates meeting last month. The doctors were debating a critical issue of when, if ever, patients and doctors should confide in each other that they are HIV positive.

ACT-UP members from 16 states, mostly from the midwest, San Francisco, Boston and Kansas City targeted the AMA's current policy which opposes freedom of treatment, thus affecting people with AIDS, cancer, and others who have turned to non-orthodox treatment for their health care. But the AMA has confirmed that they support mandatory testing of immigrants, semen and organ donors.

"I wish that more black gays and lesbians would get involved with activism," said Eddie Taylor, an African-American member of the recently formed ACT-UP/Windy City. "AIDS affects us too and many blacks should get involved and demand equal treatment."

People with AIDS, poor people, African-Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, Asian-Americans, and women make up the ranks of the uninsured and underinsured.

At the convention, Vice President Dan Quayle addressed the delegates while activists clashed with police outside. When Quayle stated that the government is making efforts to provide funding for AIDS victims, he was immediately interrupted by an ACT-UP/Chicago member, who shouted "People with AIDS need national health care."

Marching down Michigan Ave. and ending the march at the Hilton, about 250 activists chanted, "We're here, we're queer and we're not shopping" and "Hey, hey, AMA, how many people have you killed today? Some carried signs saying, "Slay the AMA" and "Caution: PWAs crossing." ACT-UP members spray painted "The AMA is killing us" and "Fight the AMA" on the marble wall of the Hilton and storefronts. The activists then marched to police headquarters on 11th and State St., about a mile away.

Police officers on foot and horseback wore rubber gloves and shouted anti-gay slurs and insults. Twenty men and seven women were arrested for disorderly conduct and mob action charges. Some activists began writing down police officers badge numbers as evidence of brutality. Other officers removed their caps and badges, which is a violation of police regulation.

The *Chicago Tribune* reported that an officer was overheard saying that he was going to "beat the demonstrators 'like I beat my wife' " although the officer was not observed physically harassing anyone.

Gentlemen Concerned Sponsors Garden Party

LOS ANGELES—Gentlemen Concerned held their Sixth Annual Garden Party on July 14 at the Los Angeles Ebell Club, raising a record $34,000 to provide housing and direct cash assistance to people with AIDS in the minority communities of Los Angeles.

Among the 300 in attendance were Dr. Wilbert C. Jordan, Phill Wilson, Rue Thai's-Williams, Executive Director Leslie Burke of Visiting Home Nurses, and Dr. Natalie Sanders of the Association of Black Women Physicians.

Entertainment was provided by the gospel group Light, singer Tracy Kennedy, and songwriter Sami McKinney who announced that a portion of the royalties from his song "Love Never Dies," featured on a soon-to-be-released album by Patti Labelle, will go to Gentlemen Concerned. A special clearance was arranged to play Miss Labelle's demo tape of the song for the audience prior to its release.

All expenses for the afternoon, as in years past, were underwritten by the members of Gentlemen Concerned to assure that 100 percent of the donations would go directly to providing AIDS services, according to spokesman Rodney Carter. "We're an organization of professional people trying to solve a community problem," Carter told BLK. "We had an increase over last year in donations of 18 percent in spite of hard times. That's the spirit of the community."

Over a dozen prizes, including a VCR, CD player and five pairs of tickets to see "Beauty Shop" were awarded.

Donations from Home Savings of America, The Study bar, Cosmopolites West and the gift of an IBM PS/2 computer worth $12,000 to Gentlemen Concerned were also acknowledged.

Gentlemen Concerned has thus far raised over $136,000 through its fundraising efforts for Dignity House, Rue's House and the Minority AIDS Project.

Farrington-Domingue Is New Task Force Co-Chair

By Karen Ocamb

Amid all the hoopla surrounding the unprecedented "coming out" of lesbian and gay law enforcement officers at the June CSW Pride Festival, another major event went almost unnoticed by the gay community. Sandra Farrington-Domingue became the first person-of-color co-chair of the Gay and Lesbian Police Advisory Task Force (GLPATF) in that organization's tumultuous history. She replaces Donna Wade who stepped down before her term expired. Mark Haskins remains the gay male co-chair.

Farrington-Domingue, 43, officially took office July 1 after almost two years as vice-chair, a position she assumed following a stint as a backup to Marshall Phillips, Stonewall Democratic Club's representative to the Task Force. Farrington-Domingue has been a building mechanical inspector with the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety for 17 years, and a holder of a law degree from Glendale's Kensington University.

At a hearing before the Police Commission on July 9, the Task Force presented four requests: continued uniformed police recruitment at lesbian and gay community events; joining other minorities in having visibile representation in the Office of the Chief of Police; revisit the Grobeson anti-discrimination case against the LAPD; and make sure that the Pride Behind the Badge officers who "came out" during the Pride event are protected from ridicule, prejudice and discrimination.

The Task Force plans to incorporate members of Pride Behind the Badge into the sensitivity training programs that GLPATF already administers at the Police Academy. But, says Farrington-Domingue, it is vital that the training remain under civilian control. "We provide a different avenue of thinking. It is important for them to have (a civilian) perspective because they might miss something," she says.

Farrington-Domingue is hoping more people of color businesses and organizations will join the Task Force to try to effect change in relations between the lesbian and gay community and the LAPD. GLPATF meets the first Thursday of every month and can be reached at 213-871-5861.

Gay Writer Apologies for Article Thought Slanted

SAN FRANCISCO—A San Francisco Bay Area freelance writer, Dennis Conkin, has apologized for racially slanted news coverage of a recent article about a murder of a gay man. Conkin also announced his resignation from the newspaper, but denied that controversy over the article was the cause.

The newspaper in which the article appeared, the *Bay Area Reporter*, has for many years printed the ethnicity of the victims and alleged assailants of violent crimes when the suspects are people of color, but not when both victims and assailants are white, or the victims are people of color and the assailants are white.

In the controversial article, Conkin wrote that the victim, William Hayward of San Francisco, "...Apparently had a sexual preference for black males and for 'rough trade' sex." Bay Area people of color organizations, other area publications, and the owner of one of two bars named in the article are voicing their displeasure.

Rodney Barnette, owner of the Eagle Creek Saloon, in a letter to *B.A.R.* publisher Bob Ross released to BLK, stated that "I am baffled by the insensitivity of the article and the poor editorial judgement which allowed it to appear in the *B.A.R.* laced with such racist innuendos." The Eagle Creek Saloon is the only bar in the city of San Francisco owned by an openly gay black man.

The manner in which the ethnicity of individuals is reported in the *B.A.R.* appears to have remained unchanged even with Conkin's departure.

BMX Establishes Denver Chapter for Black Men

DENVER—A local chapter of the Black Men's Xchange has organized in Denver. Emerging as the newest of four local black gay and lesbian organizations, BMX Denver offers men an Afrocentric positive and healthy social alternative.

"It was created as a safe place for black men to come together and discuss issues of concern as well as to provide and encourage brotherhood and unity," said John Young of BMX.

"White gay men have their own experience, and most have felt empowered as they were raised and socialized," Young continued. "Black men, on the other hand, have had to fight not only for self-acceptance, but have had to go out and get a sense of empowerment."

Young noted that black gay and black straight, black gay and white gay communities were "connected," but by having a comfortable place for African-American gay men to be together, they would be in a better position to participate in those other groupings to which they belong.

"BMX provides a place and a forum which allows men to express themselves in a safe and affirming environment," said Young.

BMX Denver is currently involved in a campaign against racism in local bars. The group will also participate with other Denver black lesbian and gay organizations to organize a community awareness brunch and celebration of blackness. Plans are also being made for black business outings, a black community forum and a community newsletter.

BMX/Denver can be reached 1512 E. 14th Ave., Denver, Colo. 80218. Telephone 303-837-1530.

CDC June Statistics on AIDS Cases in U.S.

	White (not Latino)		Black (not Latino)		Latino		Asian/Pacific Islander		Amer. Indian/ Askan. Native		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
MALE												
Gay and bisexual contact	73,584	80	17,749	44	11,219	46	812	82	137	63	103,729	66
Straight IV drug use	6,035	7	14,299	35	9,513	39	32	3	23	11	29,974	19
Gay and bisexual contact, and IV drug use	6,717	7	3,155	8	1,669	7	23	2	35	16	11,611	7
Hemophilia and coagulation disorder	1,226	1	101	0	119	0	17	2	8	4	1,475	1
Straight contact	669	1	2,772	7	414	2	8	1	4	2	3,872	2
Receipt of blood transfusion, blood components or tissue	1,787	2	373	1	223	1	46	5	2	1	2,439	2
Other and undetermined	2,001	2	1,861	5	1,247	5	55	6	10	5	5,217	3
Male subtotal	92,019	100	40,310	100	24,404	100	993	100	219	100	158,317	100
FEMALE												
IV drug use	1,914	41	5,213	56	1,837	50	15	16	18	53	9,013	51
Hemophilia and coagulation disorder	26	1	6	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	35	0
Straight contact	1,398	30	3,043	33	1,370	38	32	35	8	24	5,872	33
Receipt of blood transfusion, blood components or tissue	984	21	321	3	194	5	28	30	4	12	1,535	9
Other and undetermined	330	7	676	7	243	7	17	18	4	12	1,275	7
Female subtotal	4,652	100	9,259	100	3,647	100	92	100	34	100	17,730	100
Total	96,671		49,569		28,051		1,085		253		176,047	

Source: "Adult/Adolescent AIDS Cases by Sex, Exposure Category and Race/Ethnicity Reported through May 1991, United States," U.S. Centers for Disease Control. HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, June 1991. Beginning this month, the month indicated in the title of this report will coincide with the month indicated in the title of the CDC report from which the data is taken.

D.C. Holds First Ever Black Lesbian, Gay Pride Day

By Mark Haile

WASHINGTON—The weather came shining through and the throngs came out for the first Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Festival held May 25 in Washington. "Let Us All Be Together" was the theme for the event, which organizers said attracted hundreds of men and women.

Welmore Cook, event coordinator, said proceeds from the festival will be directed toward agencies providing HIV-related services to the black lesbian and gay community, ideally those that receive little or no government assistance. About $3,000 net profit will be distributed.

Although the focus was on raising money to support services for people with AIDS, organizers said they hope a byproduct was to encourage black gay people throughout the area to "come out of the closet." "Two and three years ago, we were still denying we existed, or that AIDS was a problem in this community," Theodore Kirkland, one of the festival's organizers, told the *Washington Post*. "Any grassroots project has to turn itself around. I think the time is right now."

Organizers chose Banneker Field near Howard University in order to be as close as possible to the black community.

"The festival came about because Cook, Ernest Hopkins and Theodore Kirkland talked among themselves about raising money for AIDS service organizations," said Carlene Cheatam, a member of the organizing committee who directed the lesbian outreach for the festival. "The need is great, so they saw this as one way to make money. They took that action with that belief."

"They went around and laid the groundwork, as far as getting the permits, identifying the space, getting the petitions signed by the people in the neighborhood and following up on all the other requirements of putting on something like this. Then once the foundation was laid, they then extended an invitation to the community to help make it happen," she told BLK.

"They incorporated Black Lesbian and Gay Pride, Inc. This is just a small corporation of people who said, 'let's do this'," she added.

Cheatam was quick to say that the festival was not organized as any kind of reaction to the annual Lesbian and Gay Pride Day festival, held in Dupont Circle. She stressed that while some black heterosexuals were expected to come to support the Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Day, most folks would probably opt to go to both, including the organizers of the Black Lesbian and Gay Pride event. Admission to the festival was only $2.00. "The reality is that there is no other entity in our community raising money for us for that need," she said.

Among the most visible organizations taking part in the first ever event were the D.C. Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gay Men, the Inner City AIDS Network, IMPACT-DC, Best Friends of D.C., Black Women Together, the Black Women's Support Group and the Nob Hill Bar.

The day long festival featured women's and men's sporting events and booths from community organizations. Entertainment was provided by a number of groups, including the Paper Dolls.

Cheatam didn't see the festival knocking down the walls of denial among the heterosexuals in the black community overnight, but remained optimistic.

"It's just one of the many steps that are necessary," she told BLK. "I don't believe that as a community we've been comfortable enough to dialogue with the straight black community, and we know they are not comfortable dialoguing with us...I wish that we were confident enough to organize ourselves to do that education. We're the only ones who can do that. But I don't believe that we are comfortable or organized or whatever to do that effectively. I hope that dialogue starts again and that some people would be willing to connect to make it happen."

A number of local politicians made appearances, such as councilmembers Frank Smith and John Ray, and D.C. Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton.

Organizers also took time out to honor artist Adrienne Blackwell with a community service award for the female illusionist's efforts at raising money for AIDS organizations.

Also honored as "Man of the Year" was Phil Pannell and "Woman of the Year" Charlene Cheatam. Best male entertainer was Melvin Parks, best female entertainer, Halima Williams, and Sparkle McHarris as best drag performer.

The turnout was far greater than he expected, Kirkland said. What members have to do now, he said, is ask themselves one question: "Are we fully at that crossroads, where we go from being underground and grassroots to being recognized?"

Hemphill Appears in L.A.; Writing Events Slated

LOS ANGELES—Black gay cultural activist and poet Essex Hemphill, editor of the highly acclaimed black gay anthology *Brother to Brother*, will present readings from that anthology and other works, in benefit performances for the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum. The opening night performance on Aug. 1 with other contributors to the anthology will be followed on Aug. 2 and 3 by Hemphill performing works from his latest book, *Ceremonies*.

Essex Hemphill is a poet, writer, and performance artist. In addition to *Brother to Brother*, he is the author of two chapbooks, *Earth Life* and *Conditions*. His poetry is featured in two critically acclaimed, award winning black gay films: *Looking for Langston* and *Tongues Untied*. His essays and poetry have appeared in *High Performance, Gay Community News, Outweek, Outlook, Advocate, Thing, Tribe, Bastard Review*, and the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Hemphill is the recipient of Fellowships in Poetry from the D.C. Commission for the Arts and a 1986 Fellowship in Literature from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Essex Hemphill continues the work of the late Joseph Beam, who edited the first anthology of black gay literature, *In the Life*, published in 1986. It was Hemphill's determination that *Brother to Brother* should be completed when Beam died of AIDS-related causes in 1988. *Brother to Brother* is an important contribution to the growing body of literature addressing sexual identity. It compliments *In the Life* in documenting the lives and experiences of black gay men.

The weekend with Essex Hemphill is presented as part of the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum's performance series. The Studio Performance Space is located at 1107 Greenacre Ave. in West Hollywood. The Forum may be reached at 213-666-5495.

In other Forum events, on Aug. 17, Steven Corbin, author of *No Easy Place To Be* and contributor to *Breaking Ice*, will be the guest at the group's Black Lesbian and Gay Writers Workshop. On Sept. 21 the writers workshop will host Larry Duplechan, author of *Eight Days a Week, Blackbird* and *Tangled Up in Blue*. Director/Playwright/Actor Brian Freeman at "Pomo Afro Homos" presented the kick-off workshop on July 13.

BLK VEIL

Obituaries are published free of charge. They are accepted from funeral directors, families, lovers, friends and AIDS service organizations. Include your name, address and phone number for our records. We prefer to write the notice ourselves from the details you provide. If known, include the deceased's principal city of residence, correct legal name, any nicknames or pseudonyms by which they were known in the community, dates of birth and death as well as locations of birth and death. In addition, include all relevant biographical and professional data in both early and later life. Don't assume any detail or accomplishment is too small to include, Although, we edit notices to not more than eight lines, it is better to have too much information than too little. We can provide information gathering forms on request.

DR. REGINALD D. BANKS, 39, born Sept. 25, 1951, died April 29, 1991 of complications related to AIDS. Banks held a B.S. from Howard University and a D.D.S. from the Meharry School of Medicine. After completing his schooling, the new dentist moved to Los Angeles. He became an active member at the first AME Church and was awarded the FAME Award. He was also recognized in 1983 as Man of Distinction-Dentistry for Children. He served on the board for the Museum of African-American Art.

HOWARD BENSON, born in 1946, died March 14, 1991 just two days before he was to reach 45, as reported in the *Bay Area Reporter.* He was 44. Benson is survived by many friends.

DEXTER FREEMAN, died April 11 in Santa Monica, Calif. Freeman was an actor, playwright, director and producer. As president of the Professional Actors League, Freeman was an activist for many years in advocating for better working conditions in Equity Waiver theaters. He founded the Staircase Company and Workshop and was co-founder of MET Theatre.

RUDOLF GARDNER, born June 5, 1955, died March 14, 1991 at the age of 35 of complications associated with AIDS, according to the *Bay Area Reporter.* Gardner, after a seven-year term with the United States Navy, worked as a civilian in the Navy Department. Most recently he worked with the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps at the University of California, Berkeley.

CHARLES EDWIN GARNER, 44, died March 8, of complications related to AIDS, as reported in the *Washington Blade.* Garner, a native Philadelphian, established himself in Washington, D.C., where he was employed as a professional hairstylist. To prepare for his career, Garner traveled to London to study with Vidal Sasson. In 1967, he was honorably dischared from the United States Army after having served two years.

CORNELIUS WESLEY GILBERT, died April 26, of complications associated with AIDS. Gilbert, 36, was born Jan. 29, 1955 in Los Angeles where he lived and worked. He received a B.S. from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1977. Upon graduation, he worked for the Los Angeles County Department of Social Services for a number of years. He was also employed by Amtrak. Gilbert traveled extensively throughout Europe and Africa.

KEVIN PETER HALL, 35, born in Pittsburgh, Penn., died at home in Los Angeles on April 10 of HIV-related pneumonia. The 7-foot-2 actor was most well known for his recent portrayals in the role of bigfoot in both the film and television series of *Harry and the Hendersons.* Hall also appeared in *227, Misfits of Science, Shannon's Deal* and played an alien for both of the *Predator* films. Hall was posthumously outed by both the *Globe* and the *National Enquirer.* He is survived by his wife, Alaina Reed.

CHIP LaGRANGE, died April 4 in New Orleans of AIDS related complications according to *Seattle Gay News.* LaGrange was actively working with the New Orleans AIDS Task Force, the annual Candlelight Memorial and the PWA Coaltion. He frequently addressed audiences on AIDS-phobia and homophobia in his work. He is survived by his two children, other family and friends.

WILLIAM THOMAS "BILL" SCALES JR., born Jan. 10 in Miss., spent his childhood and early adult life in St. Louis. After moving to San Francisco in 1968 he was employed by Pacific Gas and Electric Co. His many interests included traveling, decorating and working on his customized van. In August 1990, Scales returned to St. Louis where, according to the *Bay Area Reporter,* he died March 12 of complications related to AIDS. He was 48.

TIMOTHY L. STEPHENS III, 33, died March 11 from a pulmonary embolism. Stephens, a graduate of Gallaudet University with a degree in economics, worked for the D.C. Bureau of Vital Statistics. He was also employed in other accounting positions. Stephens had great interest in shopping and traveling, spending considerable time in Hawaii and Florida.

LAGADU

"The purpose of LAGADU is to create and maintain a safe environment for lesbians and gays of African descent in order to share our experiences, strengths, and hopes; to provide direction for our futures; to sustain visibility, and to give voice to our long held silence."

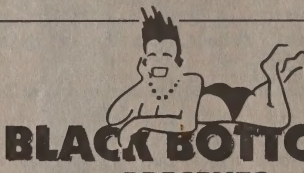
LAGADU was established January 21, 1989 primarily as a social support group for Black lesbians and gays in San Diego. Through the process of self-empowerment, we have committed ourselves to developing programs that would address the specific socio-political and economic needs of Black lesbians and gays. Within LAGADU, we have committes focused on workshops, and more. The LAGADU agenda/program also includes rap groups, a newsletter, archival gathering, a speaker's bureau, and referral and information services.

As LAGADU grows our influence and the impact we are able to make on society-at-large also grows. There will come a day when lesbians and gays of African descent will be able to stand proud wherever they are. We are lesbians and gays of African descent...united. Our very ouls are dependent upon making that identity maneifest.

For more information regarding LAGADU, please write to P.O. Box 620448, San Diego, CA 92162.

BECAUSE THE ANSWER LIES IN THE JOURNEY

LAGADU
Lesbians and Gays of African Descent United
P.O. Box 620448, San Diego, CA 92162
(619) 496-3372



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BLK PEOPLE

NEW YORK **Gale Jackson, Samuel Delany, Cheryl Clarke, Bill Wright, Essex Hemphill, Larry Duckette, Assotto Saint, Roy Gonsalves** and **Jacqueline Woodson** were featured in a benefit for Other Countries June 9.

NEW YORK **Jewelle Gomez** and **Assotto Saint** were among those reading excerpts from their work at the dedication ceremonies of the Pat Parker/Vito Russo Center Library in New York June 6.

SAN FRANCISCO **Dr. Marjorie Hill, Pomo Afro Homos, Marlon Riggs** and **Rev. Carl Bean** were four of the 22 "Heros" identified by the *San Francisco Sentinel* in its Gay Pride Issue.

BALTIMORE Mayor **Kurt Schmoke** joined 6,000 others in this year's AIDSWalk June 9.

WASHINGTON **Kevin Dickerson** and **Kenneth Hawley** made it official in a holy union ceremony last month at Friend's Restaurant. They honeymooned in Nassau.

LOS ANGELES **Dionne Warwick** was among those in the audience as **Dr. Wilbert C. Jordan** was named "Outstanding Brother 1991" by Rue's House during their "Brothers: The Second Show" fundraiser.

WASHINGTON **Sabrina Sojourner** has been named director of racial diversity programming for the National Organization for Women. She is also a board member of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

NEW YORK The final issue of *Outweek*, July 3, featured profiles of **Lynette Rivera** of New York, **Carl Andrews** of Michigan, **Michael Woods** of North Carolina and **Rogelio Parris** of New York.

TAMPA **Monique Montaine** was crowned Miss Tampa in the 19th annual event. **Mena Darnell** was first runner-up.

"This portion of the BWMT Forum is brought to you by those delicious Nabisco cookies..."

WASHINGTON **Essex Hemphill, Larry Duckette, Halima Williams, Melvin Tarone Parks, Charles Anderson, Kwame Cumale, Jackie Walker, Michael St. Andress, Samuel Augustus Jennings, Diana Olney-Campbell, Kishma Reaves-Bey, Mickey Fleming** and **Bruce Bossard** were among those on stage at "Renaissance II: Breaking Barriers," the second annual showcase of black lesbian and gay art, culture and performance. Festivities were held May 11 at First Congregational Church.

AUSTIN, Tex. **Jamie Perry** became Miss Gay Austin for 1992 last month topped 11 other entrants. The event was held at the Lizard Lounge.

NEW YORK **Sapphire** was among those reading from their works at "In Our Own Write" held at the Center in March.

RICHMOND, Va. **Regina Diamond** swept past seven contestants to become Ms. Fantastic Entertainer for 1991 in ceremonies held at the Plaza Ballroom March 30. This is the second year for this female impersonator competition.

BROOKLYN **Sapphire, Nicole Breedlove** and **Malkia Cyril** were among those who appeared at "On Fulton Street: a Tribute to Audre Lorde" presented at BAM's Majestic Theater May 19.

WASHINGTON **Yolanda Santiago** was voted president of ENLACE at the group's April elections.

LOS ANGELES **Rev. Carl Bean** was named Presiding Bishop of the Unity Fellowship Movement in ceremonies held May 5.

WASHINGTON **Isaiah Pool** was named executive director of LifeLink in May. Pool, a *Washington Times* reporter for eight years, is active with Faith Temple.

SAN FRANCISCO **John Eric Teamer** resigned from the National Association of Black and White Men Together effective at the end of the group's June convention. He cited health reasons.

MINNEAPOLIS **Derek Johnson,** 18, was profiled in *Twin Cities Gaze* as an example of today's youth "growing up after Stonewall."

ORLANDO **Keiron Lee** and **Simone Givens** came in second runner-up in the Mr. and Miss Parliament House competitions held in May.

HARLEM **Spike Lee** donated $100,000 to Hale House, a hospice for HIV positive children addicted to drugs.

FORT LAUDERDALE **Stephen Stone** came in second runner-up in the 1991 Mr. Drummer Contest for South Florida. He was sponsored by the Fallen Angel Leather Shop.

NEW YORK **Audre Lorde** was released from Lenox Hill Hospital June 18, once again triumphing in her battle against cancer.

LAS VEGAS **Joyce Hunter** was a keynote speaker at the Desert and Mountain States Lesbian and Gay Conference June 6-9.

SAN FRANCISCO **Jewelle Gomez** and **Linda Tillery** were among the performers at "Lush Voices," a benefit for the National Center for Lesbian Rights June 28. Gomez

read from her works at Lammas in D.C. May 11.

LOS ANGELES **Celester Eteocles Paul Drayden** and **Ricky Santos** were joined in holy union by Dan Smith at West Hollywood Presbyterian Church June 29.

WASHINGTON **Alice Walker,** author of *Her Blue Body Everything We Know* read from her works at Lammas May 12.

WASHINGTON **Rose Fennell** of Lambda Rising spoke about gay literature past and present on Fairfax Cable Channel 10 in April.

SAN FRANCISCO Musicians **Judith Casselberry** and **Jacque DuPreé** performed May 25 at Mission High School to benefit the Women's Building.

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. **Dr. Marjorie Hill,** director of New York's Office for the Lesbian and Gay Community, addressed the North East Lesbian and Gay Students Association March 2.

CHICAGO **Essex Hemphill** and **Larry Duckette** brought "So Many Dreams" to the Randolph Street Gallery in March. While in Chitown, Hemphill read and signed books at People Like Us Bookstore.

LONDON **Amir, Jenessa, Martin Patrick, Tracey Anderson, Dominique Legendre, Mark Holnes and Michelle Warsama** created a "Black Lesbian and Black Gay Cafe" June 30 as part of Gay Pride Week.

ALEXANDRIA, Va. **Audre Lorde** gave the lead interview in "Sound Print," a nationally syndicated radio documentary series. The celebrated author spoke about her book, *The Cancer Journals.*

SAN FRANCISCO Dancer and choreographer **Ben Carter** presented new works at the Footwork in June.

WASHINGTON **James Mercer,** associate director of the D.C. Office of Human Rights, resigned stating, according to the *Washington Blade,* that he was "no longer being used effectively."

NEW YORK In Gay Men of African Descent elections held last month, **Anthony Horne** and **Colin Robinson** were voted co-chairs, and **Joe Pressley** was voted executive director.

SAN DIEGO **Laura Irene Wayne** won $250 in the 1991 Pat Parker Memorial Poetry Competition with her poem "A Sister Gone." The contest is sponsored by Woman in the Moon Publications.

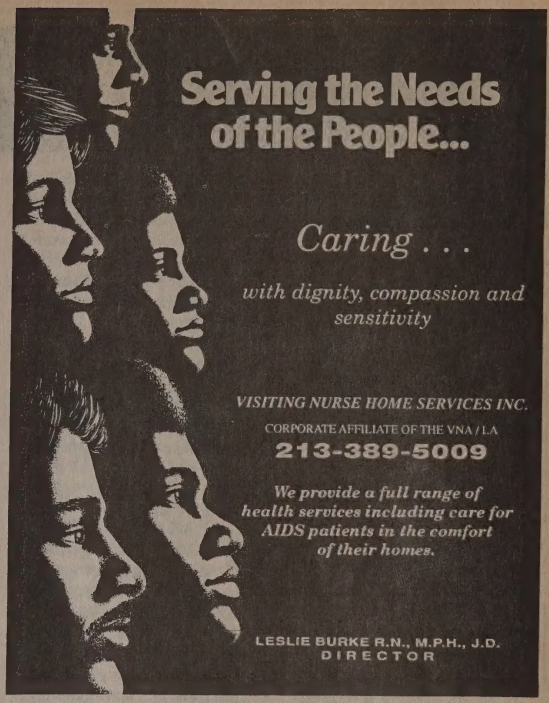
NEW YORK **Michael Marlowe** and **Wayne Philip Watson** were united in holy union on the nationally-syndicated *Donahue* show May 16. **Clinton Page** was best man.

MILWAUKEE **Basia** was named Miss Black Gay Milwaukee in April. **Ivana Black** and **Kelvin** were named Miss and Mr. Black Gay Wisconsin in May.

ATLANTA **Patrick Bell,** one of the founders of the African American Lesbian and Gay Alliance, was profiled in the June 20 issue of *Southern Voice.*

NEW YORK The spring/summer issue of *Outfront* included photos of all members of the Mayor's Police Council on Lesbian and Gay Issues along with a brief bio. Among those included were **Dr. Marjorie Hill, Chezia Carraway, Marcus Hill, Regina Shavers, Sandra Lowe** and **Colin Robinson.**

ARLINGTON, Va. Former North Carolina Democratic Senate nominee **Harvey Gantt** thanked the lesbian and gay community for its support at a Human Rights Campaign Fund luncheon in May.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BLK ARTS

THEATER

Norman Is That You

EBONY SHOWCASE

The Ebony Showcase Theater, the oldest black theater in the United States, is presenting the 20th Anniversary revival of *Norman Is That You,* to continue indefinitely at the theater. A huge hit that ran from 1971-78 at the Ebony, it was written by Ron Clark and Sam Bobrick and starred John Amos in the role that launched his career.

Originally the play focused on how a Jewish family dealt with the discovery that their son is gay. Nick and Edna Stewart, founders of the Ebony, switched it to a black family whose gay son is living with a white male lover. Lasting for only 12 performances on Broadway, with Stewart's adaption, it became one of L.A.'s longest running plays.

The revival comes while the Ebony Showcase Theater and Cultural Arts Center has been going through considerable financial difficulty. Several years ago structual reinforcement was required to bring the theater in line with earthquake safety standards. The theater never recovered from the debt and must satisfy a $150,000 note to stave off foreclosure.

A fundraising drive was initiated and since the first distress call went out, the Stewarts have received $25,000 from Quincy Jones, $10,000 from Time-Warner Communications, $2,500 from Barbara Walters and husband Merv Adelson, $7,500 from a benefit performance at the theater by Eartha Kitt, and a pledge of $2,000 from San Francisco Mayor Diane Feinstein, following a personal appearance at the fundraising kick-off three months ago.

In addition to John Amos and Eartha Kitt, some of the performers who began their careers or have entertained at the Ebony include Dorothy Dandridge, Isabel Sanford, Arsenio Hall, Robert Townsend and Sherman Hemsley, who is preparing an upcoming show. Among the current cast members, Elma V. Jackson starred in the original *Norman* and is reprising her role as the mother.

"Things are starting to turn around for us now. Bringing back *Norman* from our heyday will set the right tone for the theater's revival as well," said Nick Stewart.

MUSIC
by D. J. Marius

Mica Paris

"CONTRIBUTION"
(Island)

Twenty-one year old South London native Mica Paris steps out in a different direction on this project, her second release. The album's sound is much closer to the feeling of the street, unlike her first album *So Good,* more of a pop-oriented product. Co-produced by Camus Celli and Andres Levin, two young, little known musicians from Brooklyn, the album yields some excellent production work. Other fine musicians who show up on the album include Will Downing, former Chic guitarist Nile Rodgers and New York-based rapper Rakim (on the title cut).

Much of the music here would fit well in the club scene, while never overpowering Paris' impressive vocal abilities. Some jamin' cuts include "Just To Be With You," "Truth & Honesty," and the powerful ballad "I Can't Stop Loving You." One of the album's strongest tracks, "South of the River," highlights Paris' sensuous voice, mixed with infectiously funky beats.

Keith Washington

"MAKE TIME FOR LOVE"
(Qwest/Warner Bros)

Sure to be called an overnight success, this excellent singer has toured with the Dramatics, and done studio work with the likes of George Clinton, the Jacksons and Miki Howard. His debut album definitely reminds you that romantic song stylists have not disappeared. Washington has a way with a song that smoothes the listener into a very enjoyable musical experience.

The album's passionate, sentimental first single, "Kissing You," is catching on quickly, and making Washington a star in the process. His movie-star good looks certainly don't hurt the cause! "I love to sing live," says the Detroit native. "I'd love to get out there and let the people see what I'm all about." This is one performer certain to please a wide range of audiences.

A strong debut overall, be sure to check out "All Night," "Closer," and the album's title cut "Make Time For Love." We are sure to hear much more from this exceptional new talent in the very near future.

Lisa Fischer

"SO INTENSE"
(Elektra)

Although you may remember her duet with Teddy Pendergrass, "Glad To Be Alive," you're certain to be affected by this debut album. Fischer has learned her craft well, having toured with Luther Vandross for almost eight years, and the Rolling Stones. A talented songwriter as well, she has also worked with Dionne Warwick and Chaka Khan.

Fischer's voice catches you off guard, and commands you with its passion and emotion. An excellent example of this is the album's first single, "How Can I Ease The Pain." Accompanied by a beautifully shot, erotically charged video (she is *wearing* that dress!), the song showcases Fischer's ability to wrap her voice around each lyric. The uptempo "Save Me" also delivers an emotional charge, and will probably keep dance floors packed. Other solid cuts include the title cut, "So Intense," and the wonderful "Last Goodbye."

In addition to Luther's production touches, Fischer gets some help on the boards from Narada Michael Walden and Arif Mardin. The result is a self-assured debut and a fantastic collection of songs. And the emergence of a major new talent.

Will Downing

"A DREAM FULFILLED"
(Island)

On this, the third album from Will Downing,

we have a musical event in the making. Long respected as a song stylist, Downing ventures more into jazz territory here than on his previous releases, and with incredible results. "I went back to my roots," says Downing. "I grew up listening to jazz and I was born when soul music was at its height." Interestingly enough, Downing has established quite a following in Great Britain (much like Alexander O'Neal), but has yet to generate the same level of popularity in his native U.S.

Acknowledging musical influences such as Aretha Franklin, Luther Vandross, Anita Baker and Donny Hathaway, Downing's clean delivery and sophisticated singing style immediately take you back to the era of "real" singers. His amazing cover of Angela Bofill's "I Try" is garnering much airplay, and is just one of several listening pleasures. Adding more excellence to this melodic outing are an impressive lineup of producers and musicians, including Barry Eastmond, Omar Hakim, Jonathan Butler, Kevin Eubanks and Vincent Henry.

Don't miss the album's best ballad, "No Love Intended," or the jazz jewel "Something's Going On," in addition to an excellent cover of Paul Davis' "I Go Crazy." This is music that would make for an enjoyable live performance, but until you get that opportunity, this CD is a must-have for your collection!

Jon Lucien

"LISTEN LOVE"
(Mercury)

Referred to by many as the "Architect of Aural Seduction," Jon Lucien continues on the mellow tip with his first album for major label Mercury. Long famous as an international performing and recording artist, composer and arranger, Lucien had several hits in the 70s. His distinctive tenor-baritone has also been featured in TV and radio commercials for Diet Seven Up, Exxon, Burger King and U.S. Virgin Islands, among others.

A native of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, Lucien has a deep, soothing voice that is very unique and hard to ignore. It caresses love songs totally and leaves an indelible impression (give a laid-back listen to "Mysteries," a great duet with Brazilian singer Joyce, and the softly romantic "Love Me"). His Caribbean heritage influences his music, flowing through almost every song.

A more commercial, crossover feel adds to the romance on "You Don't Need Me," and the album's first single "Sweet Control," a perfect fit for the 'quiet storm' radio format. For those with love on their minds, and a taste for international musical influences, this album most definitely deserves a listen.

Sissy Man Blues

Various Artists
(Jass)

An interesting set of risque blues standards, this compilation on independent Jass Records is subtitled "25 Authentic Straight and Gay Blues & Jazz Vocals." Huh?

Classics with titles like "The Boy in the Boat," "I'm a Mighty Tight Woman," and "Anybody Here Want to Try My Cabbage?" trace the essence of jazz and blues back to the smoky honky tonks of New Orleans, Chicago and New York. The connection of the music to homosexuality is also explored in the well written liner notes by jazz writer Chris Albertson. A fascinating parallel is drawn between what some called "deviant" lifestyles, and this vibrant, sensual style of music.

The music ends up being most important, next to the times and events that created it. Songs like "It's Tight Like That" and "Shave 'Em Dry" recall an era of freer attitudes and less constrictions. Including such artists as Sippie Wallace, Bessie Jackson and Ma Rainey, blues and other adventurous music fans will find that this compilation has much to offer.

MUSIC

The Divas: Simply Singing

MINORITY AIDS PROJECT

It was a night of Divas like can only happen in Hollywood. "The Divas: Simply Singing!" benefit concert for the Minority AIDS Project was a who's who of black women in entertainment: two dozen actresses, singers and comediennes performing at the Masonic Temple before an audience that paid upwards of $250 a seat.

Hosted by Sheryl Lee Ralph, the evening spotlighted each entertainer singing a single song at the grand piano, with an anthem "Simply We Sing," performed by all of the assembled Divas.

The performers included Debbie Allen, Diahann Carroll, Leata Gallaway, Marilyn McCoo, Freda Payne, Dianne Reeves, Brenda Russell, Liz Torres, Marsha Warfield and Mary Wilson.

Sheryl Lee Ralph said, "During the past ten years, I had lost many beloved and talented friends due to HIV/AIDS."

The Rev. Carl Bean, founder of MAP, added while expressing his gratitude for Ralph's efforts, that the concert had come about because Ralph had been filming on location and had missed the Coming Home for Friends concert last fall, thinking up the Divas concert at a Kwaanza celebration honoring Dionne Warwick.

"The funds will come to us to better operate and manage," Rev. Bean told BLK.

Ralph produced the concert with David Coury. Coury also wrote "While I'm Around," especially for this evening, performed by Ralph and the Next of Kin Choir.

BOOKS

Blacks Get Literary Awards

The third annual Lambda Literary Awards were held May 31 in New York, to give the most prestigious acknowledgement within the lesbian and gay literary community. The gala banquet announcing the awards is held in conjunction with the American Booksellers Association Convention.

Cherry Mahanji was honored for her novel, *Her,* published by the Aunt Lute Foundation, receiving both the Lambda Literary Award for a Lesbian Debut, and the Ferro-Grumley Award for outstanding Lesbian and Gay Fiction.

Muhanji, a grandmother and co-author of *Tight Spaces,* which won the 1987 Before Columbus Book Award, was one of the two big winners that night. Among the other lesbian and gay writers of color to be honored were Gloria Anzaldua, who tied for the Lesbian Small Press Book Award for her *Making Face, Making Soul,* and Michael Nava, who won for Gay Men's Mystery with his newest book, *Howtown.*

Among the judges for the Lambda Literary Awards Jewelle Gomez, Jorget Harper, Craig Harris, Terri Jewell and Dr. Ron Simmons.

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Rules of the Game

by Emanuel

Life is hard. Life is complex. If a lesbian and a gay man both reach a closed door at the same time, who properly opens the door? An invited guest shows up to your formal dinner wearing levis and an ACT-UP T-shirt. What do you say? In a bathhouse, you observe a black friend who has nothing good to say about white men or interracial relationships in the throes of passion with a GWM. What do you do? With this issue, BLK begins a new column to help sort out these quandries. Your own questions are welcome.

So you want a boyfriend, eh?

I was standing in a legendary club in the 'hood, "rockin" to the best music in town—jheri curl juice, sweat, finger snaps, and verbal "Miss Things" flying through the air when this nice looking, casually dressed young man walked up to me and asked, "Who you wit?"

I didn't quite understand what he said at first because I was so amazed that I could hear anything at all. You know, this is the club with the speakers that sit right in your ear.

I said, "I beg your pardon."

And he repeated, "Who you wit?"

I said, "No one."

He asked, "You didn't come wit nobody?"

I said, "No."

He asked, "When are you leavin?"

With this question, I became a little suspicious of his intentions. I said, "Well, I'm just out to listen to the music and dance a little." Before he could get the words, "Would you like to dance?" completely out of his mouth, I excused myself to the patio.

After a moment, I realized homeboy was simply looking for some "lovin" that night. No introduction, no style, no tact, no class and definitely no action from me. If he had been "drop dead fine" he would not have gotten as much as a dance out of me.

Gentlemen—and that is what most of us are—what has happened to the class that we as gay men were once renowned for? I can see why most of the young men I know are still crying the blues because they don't have a boyfriend. Maybe you didn't approach that "potential" the right way the last time.

Did you stand and stare a hole in him before finally giving up? Or did you just go over and stand near him in hopes that he would break the ice with a "hello"? Or was this the one you sent your best friend over to tell him that you like him—as you once again leave the club without so much as a phone number. And, of course, that old bump into him excuse me method doesn't work anymore. Tacky! Tacky! Tacky!

What happened to the old "walk straight up to him and introduce yourself" method? Such as, "Hi, my name is Alan and I wanted to make your aquaintance."

Believe me it works! This has served its purpose quite well for me, and I have never been rejected. Okay, okay, maybe once, but he didn't deserve me anyway. This method will also work well for future prospects.

Example. You have your eyes on two guys in the club and you know you have one in the palm of your hands but you certainly do not want the other one to get away. Just walk up to him and after introductions, tell him something such as, "I hope to see you again very soon." Say something that will make him remember you (instead of that damn staring him down the throat look). This way, you have "put your foot in the door" for a future encounter.

Of course if you're totally blah and void of personality you may have to resort to that old bump, push, excuse me method to make him remember you the next time.

Now you're saying, "but I'm afraid of rejection." I guarantee that rejection will not keep you from waking up the next morning. Being rejected is not the end of your "pick up a man" life.

Of course some of us take rejection very, very personally. Take one of my dear friends, who I'll call Jason. If you reject Jason, you have made an enemy for life. Thank goodness he is nice looking and well mannered so his "rejection button" has not been pushed very often or else half of the guys in town would be his enemy.

On the other hand, there's Mervin, one of my best friends. He has been rejected so many times I suggested that he get the word "reject" tattooed on his forehead.

Now my *best* friend, who I'll call James, thinks he is an old "pro" at picking up guys. He still uses the old stare a "hole in him method." I can remember the time we were in the club and he pointed this guy out that he said liked him, and vice versa. I knew what this meant. James would stare him into submission. Everywhere that guy went James was there to stare the black off of him. I noticed the guy was beginning to get nervous so I asked James to ease up.

James said, "Oh no, I know he likes me."

After about 30 minutes of deep, deep stares (intense Marty Feldman stares) the guy got a nervous, frightened look on his face. He glanced at James as he ran from the club probably scared for his life.

James strutted over to me with this huge boastful smile and said, "I told you he liked me. Didn't you see the way he looked at me before he left the club"?

I just stood there, once again totally stunned by his gigantic, out of whack ego.

Anyway, back to the main subject. Now you're standing there looking good and feeling as happy as a pig in the sunshine. All of a sudden in walks "that one"—you know the kind that puts that funny feeling in your stomach. He notices you and starts walking toward you. Your heart begins to thump faster with every step he makes. After what seems like an eternity, he finally reaches you and softly whispers in your ear, "Hiiiiii, my name is Teddy."

You stand there damn near in a coma because Teddy's breath has just melted that gold stud in your ear, the diamond and part of that purple-green contact in your eye.

Must I elaborate?

"Fellas"! Beer, cigarettes, marijuana, and scotch do not mix with saliva. If you wondered why that "potential" just smiled, backed up abruptly, and walked away, it could have been that dragon breath of yours. We have to watch, or should I say, smell those things before approaching someone.

Gentlemen, it goes back to *think* before going in for the "kill." You don't have to be the finest guy in town to pick someone up. I've seen the "drop dead fine" guys with the "what does he see in him" guys. After a little examination, I realize the drop dead fine guy sees style, intelligence, proper manners, and above all, some *class*. Try it sometimes.

Read My Lips

by Preston G. Guider

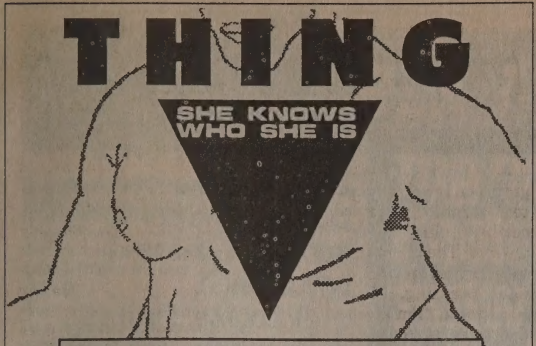
Among Other Things, the Social Event of the Season

The Queer Nation Party's mayor of Queer Chicago, **Joan Jett Blakk,** who will soon announce her candidacy for president of the United States, has declared her opposition to the nomination of **Judge Clarence Thomas** as an associate justice of the Supreme Court. **"Diana Ross** would have been a better choice," she said. "She's been a Supreme since 1964, and she looks *fabulous* in a long black dress"... **Kevin Jones** celebrated his 26th birthday party at Jewel's Catch One...A court in Mbabane on the African continent has ruled that Swazi women may marry one another. But before you make your travel plans, the ruling apparently applies only to Swazi-born women...If you find yourself looking for something in Nationwide Video's new store on Clarendon in Chicago, one of the best things to see there is **Sheldon Knox**...**Hot Chocolate,** Miss Gay Texas was seen cavorting with **Rachel Wells,** Miss Gay America at the OP in Houston...Gay teenagers at Jordan High in North Long Beach, Calif. were set to have their own "Project 10" counseling program but plans were canceled after the community got all up in arms. School superintendent **E. Tom Giugni,** who opposes Project 10 as well, said that existing high school counselors can be trained to help. And if you believe that, we've got some Florida swamp land for sale to plug up the hole in your head...The newest *Drummer* magazine "Tough Customers" hail from Dallas and include **Coffy, Mr. Ripcord 1989, Hey Cowboy** and **Daddy Floyd.** Our favorite is Coffy with all that chest and all those abs. And he *loves* to shop, too...We're sorry that **Jim Zais,** the openly gay candidate for the Washington, D.C. city council, lost the election, but we're sure that his handsome lover, **Robert Smith,** did his best to comfort him...In a takeoff on an Absolut Vodka ad campaign, a mysterious group called **Outpost** has plastered Manhattan with posters of famous people. Each poster includes a photo of the celebrity, his or her name, and the words, "Absolutely Queer." The campaign includes **Sherman Hemsley, Whitney Houston** and **James Baldwin**...As part of the prefight boasting, **Mike Tyson** promised opponent **Razor Ruddock,** "I'm gonna make you my girlfriend"—whatever that means. Although Tyson publicly subdued Raz, there has been no word of any further events between the two, main or otherwise...**Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe,** or GALZ in the 'Hood, has celebrated its first anniversary. During their gay pride celebration this year, group members took a bicycle ride around Harare, sponsored a gay video week, provided safe sex information and went on a picnic at the Harare Botanical Gardens. Folks from Bulawayo and Mutare participated...A staged reading of *Je Ne Regrette Rien* will be performed Aug. 10 and 11 at the Center on 13th St. in New York. The play is about an unsuspecting mother who comes to visit her closeted gay son who is stricken with AIDS...Over 100 guests celebrated **Rev. Victoria** and **Shirley Lee-Owens**'s first anniversary June 23 at the First Woman's Church in L.A., where the Rev. is senior assistant minister. Surrounded by orange and white, the couple were re-unionized in a ceremony performed by **Rev. Crystal Bujol,** the New Jersey-based founding minister of the First Woman's Church. Afterward, a buffet was served consisting of Southern-style barbecue ribs and beans, grilled fish, salads, fruits, champagne punch and sodas. Congrats for the year to come...In a ceremony whose pomp may rival that of **Jewel** and **Rue Thaïs-Williams, Gil Gerald** and **John Sharp** will tie the knot Aug. 31 at the Wilshire Ebell in L.A. Expect this to be *the* event of the social season... AmFar has slapped ten grand in the hands of three D.C. groups which will divide the funds: **D.C. Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gay Men, Us Helping Us** and **Best of Friends**...The *Star* reports that former *Bewitched* star **Dick Sargent** has become romantically involved with **Mark Murray,** a young black man who goes by the name "Arrow." The tabloid describes Arrow as 28, 6 ft. and muscular with a shaven head. "Dick doesn't let Arrow live in his big house," the *Star* said. "Instead, he helped move Arrow into a cottage in West Hollywood, about a 15-minute drive from his home." We called 411 the day the story appeared and got the number for the only "Mark Murray" in West Hollywood. No street address was listed. Boldly, we called. "Hello," said the party on the other end. "Hello, Mark?" we said. "Yes..." said Mark, warily. We said that we were from BLK, but before we could finsh the introduction, Mark Murray had hung up. The number has since been disconnected ...The 1991 **Soloflex** catalog centerspread features two black men. One, clad only in blue shorts and white sneakers, sits astradle one of the company's workout machines, legs wide apart. The other, wearing a blue and white jogging suit, stands a short distance away smiling admiringly ...About 60 people chose to attend a party honoring **Sidney Brinkley,** editor of *BGM* and the new west coast correspondent for the *Washington Blade,* rather than attend the famed San Francisco Josephine Baker Party held the same night. In a Pacific Heights apartment with a terrific view of the city, the mostly male, most black crowd put away 44 bottles of champagne and had a great time doing it.

"What's a clit?"

THING

SHE KNOWS WHO SHE IS



Thing is Chicago's underground zine of music, art, fiction and humor for the black, gay, and lesbian communities.
Thing is available at **Guild, Unabridged,** and **People Like Us** books in Chicago, **Different Light** locations in New York and California, or by subscription.

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Nobody ever plans on getting AIDS. And that makes it all the more devastating.

But if fighting the most tragic and least understood killer in the world today seems more than you can bear alone, remember, there's someone out there who wants to help.

AIDS Project Los Angeles.

We're confronting AIDS on every side. But our first and foremost concern is for those who have Human Immunodeficiency Virus. They're the reason we initially set up our AIDS Hotline in 1982, and soon followed up with a buddy program and counseling.

Of course, people with AIDS need more than just companionship.

They need to understand the disease. That's why we offer guidance on living with AIDS. Updates on insurance issues. Advice on faith and spiritual matters. And counseling on chemical dependencies and other addictive behaviors that often complicate an AIDS diagnosis.

I've always said,

"If I ever got AIDS, I don't know what I'd do."

I was right.

Now as if the mental and physical drain of AIDS isn't enough, there's also the financial drain. So we provide essentials like food, clothing, and dental services to those in critical need.

Of course, the fight against AIDS isn't only between the disease and those who have it.

It's everyone's problem.

That's why we promote public awareness. Try to educate those who feel they don't need it. And demand that the Government of the United States approach AIDS just as it does every other major disease.

At AIDS Project Los Angeles, people discover courage and strength they didn't know they had. But before we can help, they have to do one simple thing.

Call 213-962-1600 and talk to someone who cares.

Having AIDS can be a frightening experience, which is all the more reason it shouldn't be a lonely experience.

AIDS PROJECT LOS ANGELES

AIDS Project Los Angeles would like to gratefully thank the following contributors. Concept and design by Chiat/Day/Mojo, Jim Weinstein, Doug Schumacher and Rich Bess. Production by David Nickel, Patti Rawlins, Tony Jenson, Joe's Type Shop and Reproduction Quality Services. Media Planning by Media Ranch.

1990 AIDS Project Los Angeles 6721 Romaine Street Los Angeles CA 90038

BLK MARKET

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gospel musicians wanted for African-American group. Need lead and bass guitar, keyboards and drum. Call 714-788-9490. (33)

Study of long-term lesbian couples. Been together 2 years or more? You and your partner will fill out an interesting questionnaire which takes under 40 minutes. Research results provided. To participate, call Deborah at 718-398-2248, collect or leave message. Your help is appreciated. (32)

Have bought a car from a car dealer that has advertised in the gay press? We want to ask a few questions. Any dealer. Any gay paper. Done over the phone. You can remain anonymous. Takes about 3 minutes of your time. Call 213-410-0808. Ask for Alan. (32)

Mondo Novo is a new performance project which retells the myth of Christopher Columbus in a contemporary and "queer" way. The piece asks the question: what do the Inquisition, Exiling and Genocide of "impure" people, the advancement of technology, and the search for a New World Order have to do with 1492 and the present? We are casting for: Azeem the Moor, roguish, leading man type, handsome, versatile, late 20s to 40s, person of color, must be able to move well. Queen Isabella/Earthma, powerful woman, sophisticated, late 20s to 40s, person of color, must be able to move well. Info: Rehearsals begin July 22. Four meetings a week (three weekday nights and Sunday afternoon) until opening October 3-12 at Highways Performance in Santa Monica. $100 honorarium. For more info call Matt Silverstein immediately: 213-876-2838. (32)

For black or African-American gays and lesbian Christians who wish to correspond with others, Across the Miles has been created. This correspondence program will enable people to share what God is doing in their lives, spiritual discoveries made, questions regarding scriptural passages or living the life as a Christian, and prayer requests. This program is not a matchmaking service, but it is possible to meet others through correspondence. Across the Miles is a non-denominational enterprise, and is not affiliated with any established Christian church or religious organization. Those people interested in corresponding should send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Across the Miles, 5217 Hollywood Blvd. #401 Hollywood, CA 90027. Attn: James-Imani. All inquiries will be quickly replied, and all information is kept confidential. (32)

Los Angeles Southwest College free Office Automation Training Program begins Aug. 26, for individuals receiving unemployment benefits or whose unemployment benefits have expired and are still unemployed. The course, which includes learning software WordPerfect 5.1, dBase IV and Lotus 1-2-3, will be offered for 12 weeks, Mon. through Fri. from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Screening will take place at Los Angeles Southwest College every Tues. at 1 p.m. in Building "C," Room 103. The college is located at 1600 W. Imperial Hwy. Applications must demonstrate a basic knowledge of the keyboard, pass a skills test and be interviewed. (32)

Wanted: Sierra Domino Newsletter back issues. Photocopies okay. Willing to pay reasonable fee, costs of photocopying and postage. Need issues 1,3, 5 and 7, and any published after issue 22. Call Alan Bell at 213-410-0808, or write BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. (32)

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Finally...a gay traffic school. If you get a traffic ticket, come and spend a fun day with friends. Call 1-800-748-5933. TVS# 00694. (32)

ORGANIZATIONS

Singles club forming in San Francisco for African-American gay men who want to meet and date other African-American gay men. BLK Mailbox #140. (33)

Love boys? NAMBLA seeks justice for men and boys interested in consensual relationships. Our monthly Bulletin deatures news, fiction, letters, pictures. Mailed discreetly. Subscribe! $25/year. NAMBLA, Dept. B, Box 174, New York, NY 10018. (32)

Are you atheist? Agnostic? Secular humanist? The gay and lesbian Freethought Forum meets monthly. 213-473-7302. (EE)

SERVICES

24-hour Crisis Hotline. Professional help is just a phone call away now! Depression, anxiety, AIDS-related mental/emotional problems. Other psychological problems. 1-800-444-9999. The Open Quest Institute. Serving our community since 1978. (33)

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Advertising Salesperson to represent BLK. Work where your income reflects your energy and ability. Experience preferred, but will train the right person. Your own hours. Top commission paid. Women especially encouraged to apply. Call 213-410-0808. Or write BLK, Box 83912, L.A., CA 90083. (32)

Asst. Director for West Hollywood HIV Healthcare Center. Administrative, budgetary, and supervisory experience necessary, computer exp. helpful. Excellent opportunity to work in a position that is high profile in the community. Send resume to: Personnel, GLCSC, 1213 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90038. (32)

Counselor. The nation's only lesbian and gay inpatient chemical dependency treatment center is seeking a skilled CD Counselor. The position requires a B.A. and ICDP certification or eligibility advantageous. If recovering, a minimum of 2 years of verifiable continuous sobriety is required. Must be sensitive to the needs of lesbian/gay patients. Qualified applications send resume to: Joseph Neisen, Program Director, Pride Institute, 14400 Martin Dr., Eden Prairie, MN 55344. (32)

Director of Emotional Support Services. Los Angeles Shanti Foundation is currently seeking qualified candidates for the position of Director of Emotional Support Services. This management position reports directly to the Executive Director, and is responsible for the evaluation, coordination and implementation of all programs within Emotional Support Services. The salary range is $27,000-$30,000 annually. Qualified candidates will have strong supervisory, administrative and grant writing skills, as well as thorough knowledge of HIV issues and human dynamics. B.A. or M.A. in Business or Social Services preferred. For immediate consideration, please send resume and cover letter to: Director Search, Shanti Foundation, 6855 Santa Monica Blvd. #408, Los Angeles, CA 90038 by Aug. 20. No phone calls please. If you have any questions, please contact Mark King at Shanti at 213-962-8197. Thanks.! (32)

Illustrator. If you'd like exposure and you're willing to put in time for almost no pay, call 213-410-0808. Or write BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. Will train the right person. (32)

Inpatient treatment center for lesbians and gay men with chemical dependency. Experience in chemical dependency or psychiatry preferred. Administrative experience desirable, but not essential. Must be sensitive to the needs of the lesbian and gay community. Responsible for supervision of staff, medical evaluations, detoxification, medical quality assurance. Send resume or call Brenda Griffin, Acting Executive Director, Pride Institute, 14400 Martin Dr., Eden Prairie, MN 55344. 800-547-7433. (32)

Manager, Client Services for West Hollywood Healthcare Center. Seeking a nurse with previous D.O.N./healthcare management and HIV clinical experience. Prefer BSN/PHN and bilingual. Exciting opportunity to assist in development of nurse clinician model clinic, est. policies and protocols, staff and pt. education. No nights or weekends or on call. Immed. opening, competitive salary. Send resume to: Personnel, GLCSC, 1213 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90038. (32)

MD + ADM & RN Needed for new Pas. Com. Clinic. PT or retired OK. Bilingual. Call Dr. Jolly 213-654-5000. (32)

CALLS FOR SUBMISSION

Venus Press is seeking single-panel cartoon, strips, and cartoon stories for New Dyke, a book anthology of cartoons by cartoons by, for and bout lesbians. Cartoons can be fantasy, soap opera, humor, sci-fi, feminist satire/politics, explicit sex, stories about growing up, coming out, romance, aging, etc. Deadline Dec. 1, 1991. Send submissions and SASE to Venus Press, 7100 Blvd. E., Guttenberg, NJ 07093. Especially seeking cartoons by lesbians of color. (32)

The Pittsburgh International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival is accepting entries in film and video (8mm, 16mm, 35mm, 1/2", 3/4"). The deadline for entries is Sept. 10. All categories welcome. People of all colors strongly urged to enter. Please send properly labeled entries, inclusive filmography with personal statement, $15 entry fee, and return postage to: PILGFF, Box 9007, Pittsburgh, PA, 15224. Contact: Daniel Schott, 412-362-9462. (32)

Independent filmmaker Ann Alter and writer/researcher Laine Goldman are seeking your honeymoon tales for their new documentary film--horizontal mambo and other honeymoon tales. Funded in part by the Ohio Arts Council and the Center for New Television NEA Regional Fellowship program, this feature-length documentary chronicles the romantic passage of the honeymoon and investigative dynamics of a ritual rarely discussed in professional and/or private life. Co-directors/producers Alter and Goldman are asking individuals and couples to share their honeymoon tales from the traditional to the offbeat. Special attention is being made to contact lesbians and gay men, people of color, the physically challenged and seniors. Alter and Goldman also encourage "honeymoon specialists" to share their insights and theories. Lesbian, gay men, people of color and seniors are encouraged to send inquiries, stories and suggestions to Horizontal Mambo Productions, Box 5657, Athens, OH 45701. (32)

The Multi Media Arts Gallery is looking for work by lesbian and gay photographers for a show that will be held at the gallery during Jan. 1992. The work may be documentary, experimental or fine art. Work that is considered sexist,

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racist or violent in any way will not be accepted. To have your work reviewed by the gallery director photographers should call 212-966-4080 to set up an appointment. (32)

Submissions are now being accepted for Short Fiction By Women, a new magazine publishing the finest literature by women writers. The magazine needs unpublished short stories, novellas and novel excerpts. All women writers, including lesbians and women of color, are encouraged to submit their work. Stories from both unpublished and published writers will be considered. Want top-quality, strong, original short fiction. A short biography/bibliography of each author will be included. Payment will be based on length and funds available. The magazine will own first serial rights only. Writers should submit one typed, double-spaced manuscript and include a SASE for return of manuscript. Send submissions to: Rachel Whalen, Editor, Short Fiction By Women, Box 1276, Stuyvesant Sta., New York, NY 10009. The first issue will be published in the fall of 1991(32)

Sorority, a new quarterly magazine published by and for gay women, is seeking submissions on subjects of interest to gay women: informative articles, commentaries, profiles, interviews, travel pieces, health issues, short and long fiction, poetry, graphics, drawings, photographs, book reviews, film and video reviews, concert and event reviews, cartoons, drawings, puzzles, community listings and information about upcoming activities. Submissions from marginalized members of our community are particularly welcomed. Maximum word count is 7,500, but 5,000 preferred. Submissions on 3-1/2 in. disk in IBM WordPerfect with hard copy backup preferred, but can accepted ASCII format on either 3-1/2 or 5-1/4 in. disks. Typed-only submissions also accepted. All artwork (including photographs) should be in black and white, should not exceed 7-1/4 x 4 in. with either vertical or horizontal layout, and should be camera-ready if possible. Reductions to fit the specified dimensions are acceptable. Include a S.A.S.E. No material that is racist, sexist, ageist, ableist or homophobic in content will be published. Sorority, 1170 Bay St. #110, Toronto, ON M5S 2B4, Canada. 416-462-6665. (32)

At the Crossroads, a new visual, performing and literary journal for women artists of African descent, is seeking submissions of written and visual art. Manuscripts of poetry, short stories, journal entries, experimental writing, radio plays, theatre, interviews, screenplays, transcribed performance pieces, reviews, essays and all other forms of creative and analytical writing are welcome. We want submissions of visual art, including line drawings, sketches, graphics, illustrations, photographs, murals, mixed media, printing, collage, sculpture, quilts, beadwork, textile art, etc. Send black and white photographs or photocopies of work. Do not send your original copy of art work. All submissions should be accompanied by a bio, brief statement about the work and any other relevant information. At the Crossroads is especially interested in receiving submissions from women in the Maritimes region and writers who have not yet been published. Manuscripts that do not arrive with a self-addressed, stamped envelope will not be returned, so send copies only. All photographs will be returned. Send to: Attn. Karen Augustine, At the Crossroads: A Journal for Women Artists of African Descent, Box 317, Sta. P, Toronto, ON M5S 2S8, Canada. (32)

Women with immune system and other systemic disorders--rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, scleroderma, endometriosis, chronic fatigue, multiple sclerosis, chronic asthma, allergies, environmental illness. Submissions sought for anthology of women's experiences living and coping with these illnesses. We are looking for inspiring, cautionary or everyday stories about how your illness has affected your work, family, children, partner, support system, sexuality, self-image, finances, sense of security, physical abilities, spirituality. How has your life changed? What have you learned? For information and Writer's Guidelines send self-addressed stamped envelope to: Canaries in the Mine, 75 Hartford St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Deadline: Dec. 1, 1991. Contributions by women of color especially welcome. (32)

An anthology of writing and artwork by Asian/Pacific lesbians is being compiled by Anne Mi Ok Bruining and Sharon Lim-Hing of Asian Lesbians of the East Coast. The genres are poetry, essays, short stories, autobiography and any artwork that can be reproduced in a book. Themes include but are not limited to the following: identity, sexuality, politics/social constructs, relationships, work/professions/careers, life cycles, disabilities and activities and interests. The deadline is Dec. 15, 1991, and submissions should be sent to Anne Mi Ok Bruining, 41 Shaw Rd., Little Compton, RI 02837. (32)

Celebration Theatre is seeking submissions for its second Open and Out Festival slated for Sept. 13-29 at the new theatre, 7051 Santa Monica Blvd., Hollywood. projects should be easily staged for workshop productions/readings and works about lesbians and people of color are especially encouraged. Submissions should be received by July 15 and sent to John Callahan, Celebration Theatre, 4470-107 Sunset Blvd. #353, L.A., CA 90027. (32)

FOR SALE

Skins, the fanzine for kinky uncut men. Free ads. Sample copy: $4 and statement of age. CB&V, Box 97694, Las Vegas, NV 89193. (39)

Exclusively created for black skin: based on ancient egyptian formulas of rejuvenation our products are made from state of the art natural ingredients. Send $15 for samples and product list to: Temptations! Box 1227, New York, NY 10018. (32)

Gay magazines. Pack of 6 hot used magazines. Just $15. P&H, Inc. Send

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■ **Complete and sign the following. None of this information will appear in your ad.**

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■ I am an adult of legal voting age and consent to the placing of my ad in BLK. I understand that the Blk Publishing Company is in no way responsible for any transactions between myself and any persons I contact through its publications.

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■ **Replying to a BLK Mailbox.** Only letters may be sent to BLK Mailboxes. They may not be used for the distribution of bulk mail or circulars. To reply, address your envelope:

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The Rules

■ Deadline: First Friday of the month of publication.

■ Ads received after deadline will appear in the following issue.

■ Open account billing available on approved credit. Terms: Net 10 EOM. Minimum charge is $15. *Credit must be approved in advance.*

■ **Rules and regulations.** *A word is any group of letters or numbers with a space on either side of it.* Free ads may run a maximum of three times, then must be renewed. We reserve the right to reject, rewrite or edit ads including those that advertise or solicit sexual acts considered unsafe by current AIDS criteria. Telephone numbers in ads must be verified prior to publication at a charge of $3 (within California $1). If a number has been previously verified by BLK, attach an ad containing the number to your new ad. Advertiser's complete name, address and authorizing signature must accompany ad. This information is confidential and will not appear in your ad.

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■ You may place your ad by telephone and charge it to Visa, MasterCard or American Express if your order totals $15 or more.

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■ Completely free ads may only be placed by mail.

■ Ads that are not completely free may be paid by check, Visa, MasterCard or American Express. Do not send cash.

■ Send to: BLK Classifieds, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912.

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■ Minimum for credit card billing is $15 whether by phone or by mail.

Name of credit card_____ Expires_____

Credit card number_____

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check or M.O. tc Island Marketing, 127 S. Shore Dr., Island Lake, IL 60042, State you are 21. (37)

BLK T-shirts, satin jackets, baseball caps, sweatshirts, key tags, back issues, note cards, etc. now available mail order. Write: BLK Mail and Femail Store Catalog, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. Or call 800-TRUE-BLK, anytime 24 hours a day, seven days a week. (TF)

MASSEURS

Attractive, well-built guy (29, 5'7", 140#), experienced, offers deep thorough relaxing massage to other in-shape guys by candlelight, table, $40 in West Hollywood, $? out. Greg, 213-650-6265. Calls verified. (E)

Randy Cochran. 818-997-3776. L.A.'s hot top black studman. Hung huge, yet versatile. 28, 5'9", 160 lbs., with a tight smooth body. 24-hour, in-out sessions. $125-$200/hr. Video titles include "Black Attack," "Heatwaves," "Black Force" and many more. Visits are in person...Not associated with 976-WOLF. Safe sex okay. (E)

The Real McCoy. Very handsome Italian professional, 29, great body, offers custom-tailored 5-star bodywork to the discerning man. Atmosphere, style, technique and more. Quite simply...the best! 213-288-6800. (E)

WOMEN'S PERSONALS

SBM, 40, very dominant arty type, likes straight, submissive bi-ladies, lesbians. No phonies, drugs. I'm hot and kinky. Hurry! BLK Mailbox #124. (E)

Hampton Roads, Virginia area. Single, black bisexual female, professional, 31, in search of feminine lesbian or bi-female for relationship varied interests. No fats, drugs, or marrieds. Photo and note appreciated to BLK Mailbox #121. (E)

Black woman, honest, clean, intelligent, professional, financially secure, optimistic, adventurous, spiritual, lesbian! Send descriptive letter, photo, etc. San Diego. BLK Mailbox #139. (32)

GBF, 25, graduate student, eclectic interests, multi-talented, new to the life, looking to connect with other GBFs from all over, especially Atlanta, Toledo/Detroit, D.C. for friendship and a sense of community. Will answer all. BLK Mailbox #132. (E)

BF, 26, student, not looking for romance through this ad. However, I would like to exchange postcards, short notes or long letters with women from all over. I live in Detroit. BLK Mailbox #107. (E)

Soulful, diamond in the raw, 19, African-American ISO lasting friendships with multi-cultured, positive lesbian sisters USA/abroad (18-?). Will answer all. Maria, 329 Childress Lane, Flora, MS 39071-9740. (E)

Fluffy, feminine, early 40s, fun-loving, witty, sensitive, romantic, who appreciates nature, intimacy, looking for independent butch. I am 5'7½", sexy, plump. Seek friendship first. Who knows what can happen? BLK Mailbox #115. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS INTERNATIONAL

Canadian GWM, 34, 5'9", 160#, attractive, masculine, fit, blue eyes, dark blond hair, beard, university student, enjoys reading, movies, videos, pen pals, swimming, outdoors, travel, seeks friends, any race or age, anywhere. T.H., Box 46612, Stn. G, Vancouver, BC V6R 4G8, Canada. (E)

Attractive Ghanaian 23, seeks white and black penpals 20-30 years. Write: Jack, Box 3879, Accra, Ghana, West Africa. (E)

Attractive GWM, 38, 5'11", 165 lbs, dark hair, green eyes, moustache, hairy, well-built, Greek active, seeks big, muscular, masculine, Greek passive black or latino friends. Will travel. Visitors welcome to Paris. Photo please. P. Atlan, 8 Passage Lathuile, 75018 Paris, France. (E)

GWM, teddy-bear, seeks dominant black male tops for intimate friendship and fun. Doug, #103-4800 Arbutus, Vancouver, BC V6J 4A5. 604-263-3991. (TF)

MEN'S PERSONALS—CA

Northern California

BM, 41, 5'8", 145, slim attractive, health-conscious, wants to pen-pal with other slim health-conscious black males around the same age. BLK Mailbox #141. (35)

WM, new to east bay, 43, 185, 6'3", HIV+, non-smoker. Want to meet BM for friendship, love, and/or versatile safe sex. Box 56260, Hayward, CA 94545. (32)

GBM, 33, bottom, seeks top bi or GBM, discreet, bright. Box 70571, Oakland, CA 94612. (33)

San Diego Area

Happy, healthy, and adventurous GBM, seeking sincere monogamous relationship with same. Serious replys only. Send photo with intro letter and phone number if interested. BLK Mailbox #136. (32)

New GBM to desert area. Seeking new friends possibly more. Call Bob, 619-329-7522. (32)

Are you 300 lbs., over 40, any color, reliable friend in San Diego and wish to meet sincere Italian 68, slender, endowed (6"), healthy and educated! Call 619-291-8966. (32)

White man seeks extra hung top. Tom, 619-262-6046. (34)

White hunk, 30, exhibitionist, seeks same. Box 33361 San Diego, CA 92163. (34)

Free! Fone fun for all cummers. A.C. 619-292-1922. Anytime. (E)

White boy seeks hung tops. Write Box 3411, La Mesa, CA 91944. (E)

BM, Palm Springs area needs beginner BM for work-out buddy, maybe more. 619-324-5450, answer machine. (E)

Los Angeles Area

Just wanna have fun and beyond. Bi-BM wants to meet women and men. Ken. 213-465-8968. Serious only. (32)

Handsome black man, 35, 195#, well-built, who likes to workout with weights and jog on a daily basis, would like to meet honest, sincere person for friendship, white or hispanic, who loves the outdoors and some sports. Rod, 213-938-2004 before 11 p.m. (34)

Very hot butch blond bottom bodybuilder, 33, 5'6", 145, hot throat and ass, seeks dominant top black man. BLK Mailbox #137. (32)

GWM, 40s, seeks (1) super hung blk top man and (1) super hung blk bottom man for hot and safe 3-way sex. Write to Allen, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd. #109-332, West Hollywood, CA 90045. (34)

GBM wanted. Any age. For loving companionship, relationship. Me: GWM 50s, 6', 179 lbs., affectionate, HIV-. Will, 818-362-2022. (33)

If you could date an athletic attractive man, 24, you'd want to do it, correct? If polite and under 25, introduce yourself with a note! Box 3516 Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90274. (33)

Hot P.R. seeking one in-shape butch blk/Latin hung X-thick. Me: 37, 135#, 5'6". Willie, 213-657-2539. (34)

Fat GBM, 18-30, 250+# sought by GWM. R.A.S., Box 4013 Chatsworth, CA 91313-4013. (36)

Black bodyguard and companion wanted by wealthy GWM, 44, 200#, 8" for night time protection and pleasure on hilltop estate. Guard must be over 6', in shape, (BB pref.) and hung. Guest house, vehicle and salary to right person. Daytimes free. Photo and letter to Guard, Box 91744, City of Industry, CA 91715. (32)

Couple looking safe sex. Box 19543, LAX 90019-0543. (34)

Sexy Oriental TV, 27, wants to collect white jockey shorts. Picture and jockey is a must. You won't be disappointed. BLK Mailbox #138. (32)

Black queen, 38, tits, seeks slender light-skinned black man, thick dick, who is single parent, for dating and romance. I'm into safe sex. Call Nina at 213-480-0008. Please no fats. Must be a masculine gay man who is into queens or must be a bisexual man. Please do not call if you are not into queens. (32)

Extremely handsome, 28, white masculine guy, 6'1", 185#, very athletic, looking for masculine large black guy about my size or bigger. Must be straight-acting. 213-871-5813. (32)

Attractive middle eastern guy, 34, 5'9", 150#, black hair, brown eyes, light-brown skin, trim, masculine, healthy, intelligent, romantic, candlelit, sports, music, down-to-earth, and very discreet. Looking for one-to-one relationship with a black or latino guy, who is safe, sincere, honest, masculine and top. If interested, please call at 818-242-3636 after 6 p.m. (32)

If you're blk and top man, enjoy getting sucked, well hung and horny, call Jim 818-344-1913. No calls on Sat. (32)

If you're GBM with a big cock, call Alex 818-896-8890. blond wants to please you. (34)

WM, 33, handsome, will lick young straight smooth black butts anytime and all the time! Large stocky butch guys only. Box 46841, Los Angeles 90046. (32)

Black male to meet hung male days. O.C.C., Box 19002, L.A. 90019. (34)

If you'd like to meet a warm, friendly, goodlooking, 6'1", 180#, 34 year old, GR/P, masculine, relationship minded GWM then write to Box 691943, L.A., CA 90069. You should be masculine, 28 to 40 years, top, and willing to take things slow and easy. No drugs please. (32)

Black is sexy and that's what I like. I'm a shy Latino. Call me. Richard, 213-465-8968. (32)

GBM, 28, 6', 165, attractive, light-skinned fun, discreet, given up on finding good solid lover relationship, seeking safe fun with attractive straight/married types for periodic visits. Prefer black, however other races welcome. Call Steven in Glendale at 818-548-9539. No fats, fems or drugs. (32)

Stunning attractive GBM seeks WM for great times. Robert, 213-937-7622. (34)

Hot white guy to sucks black studs in leather only. R.W., 12021 Wilshire Blvd. ##899, Los Angeles, CA 90025. Photo. (32)

Commitment and values: B/M, 38, 5'11", 170, G/P seeks an affectionate tall G/A white or black top man 40-55 who likes 1-to-1, homelife, mountains and stability. Mel, Box 71247, L.A. 90071, 213-656-0528 ext. 22. (34)

Hot, friendly white guy with tight pussy ass needs it regularly/safely spread, filled and deep slow pumped by condomed boyfriend. Richie, Box 5791 Glendale, CA 91221-5791. (32)

Attractive black male, 5'10", 190 pounds, muscle-toned body, 34 years of age, seeks attractive, white male of the same stature or taller for outdoor fun, adventure, and quiet cozy evenings. No j/o calls. Relationship-oriented only. Call before 11 p.m. Ask for Biff. 213-931-3637. (32)

GWM, 25, seeks gay black or Hispanic male, under 30 years old, for dating, friendship and fun. Must have good sense of humor and positive outlook on life. Honesty, stability and romance are also important qualities. BLK Mailbox #142. (32)

GWM has talented tongue to service GBM front and rear. Try me. Randy, Box 74241, Los Angeles, CA 90004. Will pay. (E)

GBM, 41, 5'11", 147, beard & mous-

tache seeks GWM for sincere correspondence. All letters answered. Sumari, Box 69265, Los Angeles, CA 90069. (E)

Tall, affectionate black male, 33, muscular, "runner's build," seeks beefy, non-smoking white male weightlifter, 28-50, for cuddling. Brion, 929 S. Lake, Los Angeles, CA 90006. (32)

Football player, beefy weightlifter wanted. U—love to cuddle. I—love to massage. We—need to belong. Black man, 41, 5'9", 180, workout. Box 29037, Los Angeles, CA 90029. (32)

Sexy French muscular bodybuilder, 30, 5'10", 175 bubblebutt, green-blue eyes, longs for tall, massive, super muscular, thick, bodybuilder over 200 lbs., any race, for friendship and safe fun. Am discreet, sophisticated. 213-656-2942. (33)

Sit on my face! Box 86651, L.A., CA 90086. (E)

Cute blond bottom seeks giant buffed dominant man. 818-765-5132. (E)

Discreet professional black male, a body worshipper, seeks muscular, chubby, husky, bodybuilder type men with super, super big thighs & super, super big bubble butt for friendship. 213-933-3098. (E)

Affection, passion, companion, HIV-. Box 5950243, Orange, CA 92667. (E)

Commitment and values: B/M, 38, 5'11", 170, G/P seeks an affectionate tall G/A white or black top man 40-55 who likes 1-to-1, homelife, mountains and stability. Mel, Box 712427, Los Angeles, CA 90071. 213-656-0258 ext. 22. (34)

If your sex black tool is extra large (diameter and/or length) I challenge you to try me. I am 35 years old, Latino, 140 pounds, 5'7", bilingual. Letter and/or nude photo. Mr. V., Box 761326, Los Angeles, CA 90076. (E)

Sincere, slender black male artist seeks handsome, very aggressive, versatile, sincere, homo erectus, any race. No chubbies, queens or losers. Call 213-661-1431. (33)

White seeks black for friendship and more. Gay white male, 32, body-builder, seeks gay black male, 27 to 40. Me: honest, energetic, intelligent, mature, passionate, loving, assertive but versatile, capable of compromise, professional, handsome, masculine, muscular, brown hair, blue eyes, 6'2", 195#, 8x5½", bubble-butt. You: similar man of excellent character, ready and capable of being an equal partner, 6'2" to 6'5", 9x6½+", dark and muscular and healthy. Call 619-322-6292. You won't be bored! (E)

Gay male, 37, 5'9", 165 lbs., blue eyes, into classic film, music, sunset walks at the beach, seeks intelligent, aware individual for mutually-fulfilling companionship. Please call Bruce at 213-338-9695. (24)

MEN'S PERSONALS—CO

Caribbean man wants tops with thick dicks. Box 18714, Denver, CO 80218. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—CT

Congenial white male ISO black male. Box 284, Hartford, Cconnecticut 06141-0284. (TF)

MEN'S PERSONALS—DC

Gay black male, 5'10", 192 pounds, straight-appearing, romantic, would like to meet Canadian or European gay, white of similar characteristics. Must be straight-appearing, stocky or muscular. Will visit Europe this fall. Box 15331, Washington, DC 20003. (32)

GWM seeks GBM hung huge. 202-483-3693. (E)

Single African-American male 26, 5'9" slender, light complexioned, masculine, healthy and intelligent and very conscious. Seeking friendship and correspondence with intelligent serious minded, independent masculine, light skin brother or Puerto Rican brother age 20-29. Let's write with photos and letters to Eric, Box 39215, Washington, D.C. 20016. Peace brother. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—GA

GBM 30 195 seeks J/O partner GBM 24-30. Box 54894, Atlanta, GA 30308. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—HI

You are top, hung, HIV+ and want to enjoy life. Loving home waiting for you in Hawaii. Write: Boxholder, Box 75704, Honolulu, HI 96836. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—IL

Gay white male seeks gay black male, 30s, in Chicago, Illinois. 312-525-1267. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—LA

Gay white male, 29, looking for sincere blacks for possible relationship. Can relocate anywhere upon release. James Fitzgerald #98743, Northpoint Training Center, Box 479, Burgin, KY 40310. (32)

MEN'S PERSONALS—KY

Gay black father seeks friendship/relationship with other gay fathers black or white or those who appreciate children who have reached adolescent age. I am a warm sensitive romantic in search of others who are family-oriented. Write Ly-Leh, Box 144, Evergreen, LA 71333. (E)

Black male, seeking bi-couples, TVs, TSs, drag queens, crossdressers, any race, any shape, ages 21 to 55, for friendship, kinky times, swinging. Am clean and discreet. Like all cultures. Motel meetings in Natchez, Mississippi, Vidalia, Louisiana, Ferriday, Louisiana area. Call anytime day or night. 318-339-9269. C.B., Box 941, Jonesville, LA 71343. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MD

Nice guy seeks same for friendship. This 50-year-old straight-acting WM is looking for a very masculine BM. Pleasant disposition, positive outlook and stability are important to me. Blue collar, thick endowment and trim build are pluses. Send detailed letter and photo of yourself to: BLK Mailbox #118 or call 301-779-6738. Pen pals welcome. Visitors to D.C. should call in advance of arrival. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MA

WM, 53, seeks thin, romantic, clean black male in Boston. Call 617-524-0417. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MI

Professional masculine GBM, 31, 6'2", 190#, HIV+, enjoy running, skiing, cooking and still dream about romance. Frustrated with the Detroit scene. I would like to meet/correspond with other masculine (not into roles) HIV+, GLatin/GB males for friendship and maybe more. I do not use drugs/smoke. Write. There is nothing to loose, but everything to gain. BLK Mailbox #135. (33)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MS

Handsome Samson. Brent, Unit 28, #44219 Parchman, MS. (34)

Sex god. Butler, Unit 28, #45779 Parchman, MS. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NJ

Latin male, professional, clean, masculine, mid-forties, seeks the same in a black older gentleman only. No vices or pain. Occupant, Box 392, Passaic, NJ 07055. (34)

White male, 32, 160, brown hair, blue eyes, seeking young males for friends/sexual partners. Prefer cute, slim, smooth, cut, clean-shaven boyish Northern European, black and Southeast Asians. Like music, philosophy, science, health food. Am honest, sensitive, sincere. Live-in possible. No V.D., kinky/slutty types. Photo a must (preferably revealing)! Ron, Box 307, Irvington, NJ 07111-1940. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NY

Masculine WM, 41, seeks top BM. BLK Mailbox #134. (32)

White professional seeks black man. Smith, 118 Second St., Albany, 12210. (E)

GWM, 42, 5'1", 125 lbs, brown hair, blue eyes, eyeglasses, considered cute. Cigarettes, wine, dancing, antiques, movies, rock, classical, quiet nights at home. Mature, responsible, warm, gentle, loving. Seek black male 40+, same attributes for friendship and possibly more. Rochester, N.Y. area. Serious replies only, send photo. BLK Mailbox #133 (E)

Lean, muscular, GBM, top, 52, 6', 155, seeks fit, muscular, intelligent bottoms, into camping, hiking, nudism, travel, all ages/races. J. Tree, Box 161, S.I., NY 10304. (E)

GWM, continental, refined, personable, safe, hospitable, in his 50s, seeks hung BM for worship and devotion. 212-677-4159. (E)

GWM, 48, goodlooking, masculine appearance, HIV-, caring, down to earth guy, seeks young, masculine BM, 18-30 for serious relationship, Box 547, Bridgehampton, NY 11932. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—OH

W/M 26, smooth bottom. Sami Cripple. R138659, Box 120 Lebanon, OH 45036. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—SC

Hot blooded, masculine, black Southern buck, 25, with hot Southern comfort to offer. Interested in masculine GBM everywhere. I'm extremely fond of medium to large physique men, however, slender men are welcome also. Send your hottest letters and photos in exchange for mine. (No fats or fems, please.) Marc, Box 12143, Cola, SC 29211. (E)

Attractive, masculine, GBM, 25, would like to meet GBM from everywhere who could teach an inexperienced ex-prisoner of guilt about being gay. The joy of gay sex! Am very eager to learn. Send your hottest letters and nude photos. In return you'll get mine. M.T., Box 12143, Cola, South Carolina. No fems, please! (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—TX

Uncuts fascinate you? Like to call, write, meet or play with uncuts? Correspondence-contact club for those into Uncuts. SASE to UM, Box 72455-BK, Corpus Christi, TX 78472. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—UT

GWM, 55, 5'8", 150, attractive Utah professional, seeks GBM or Latin athlete, non-smoker, non-drinker, non-drug user. If you fit this description and are seriously looking for a quality one-one relationship, call 801-364-2523. (32)

MEN'S PERSONALS—VA

GWM, 55, 160#, 5'9", stable, sane, secure, non-smoker/drinker, HIV negative, seeks similar black male under 40 years old, non-obese for friendship, good times, mutual pleasures and possible relationship. Box 23093, Alexandria, VA 22304. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—WA

GWM, Christian desires GBM friendship. B.H., Box 3263, Seattle, WA 98144. (34)

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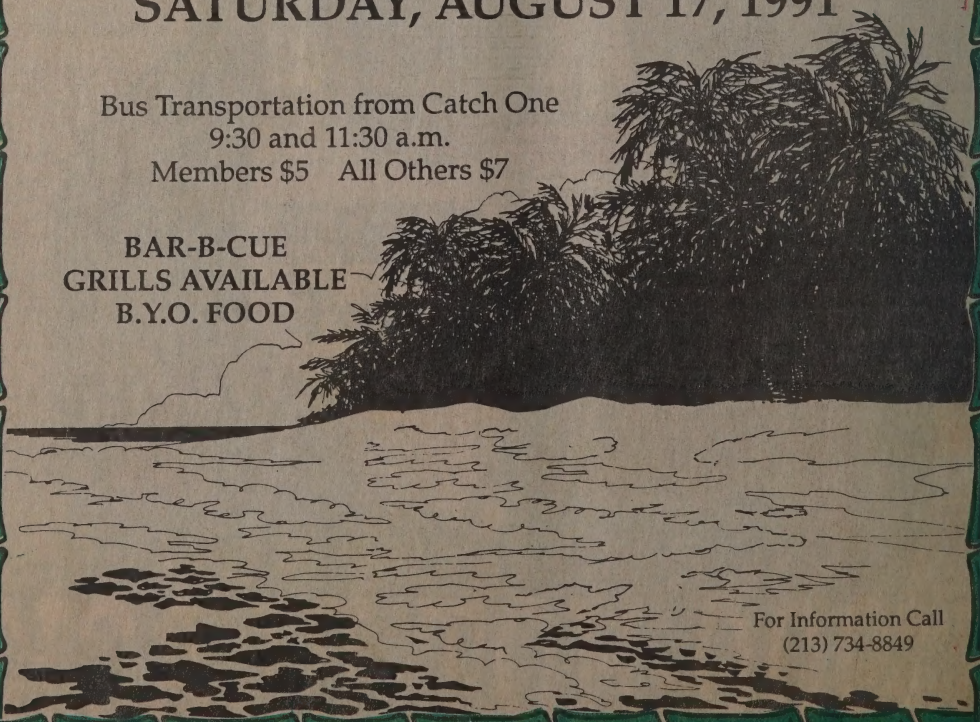

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THE NATIONAL BLACK LESBIAN AND GAY NEWSMAGAZINE

BLK

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WORD UP
READ MY LIPS
CLASSIFIEDS

Vol. 3, No. 3, Whole No. 28, March 1991

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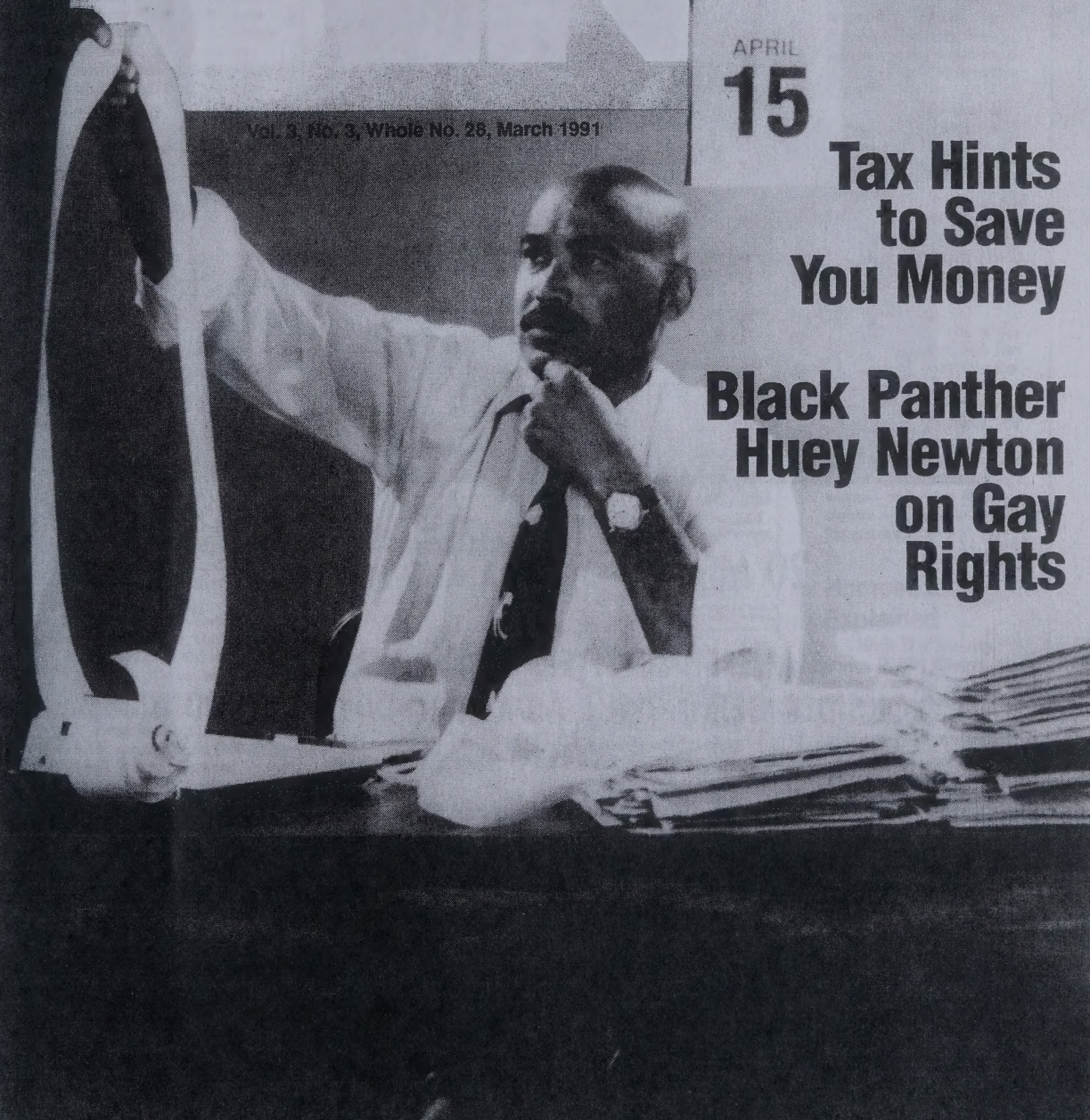
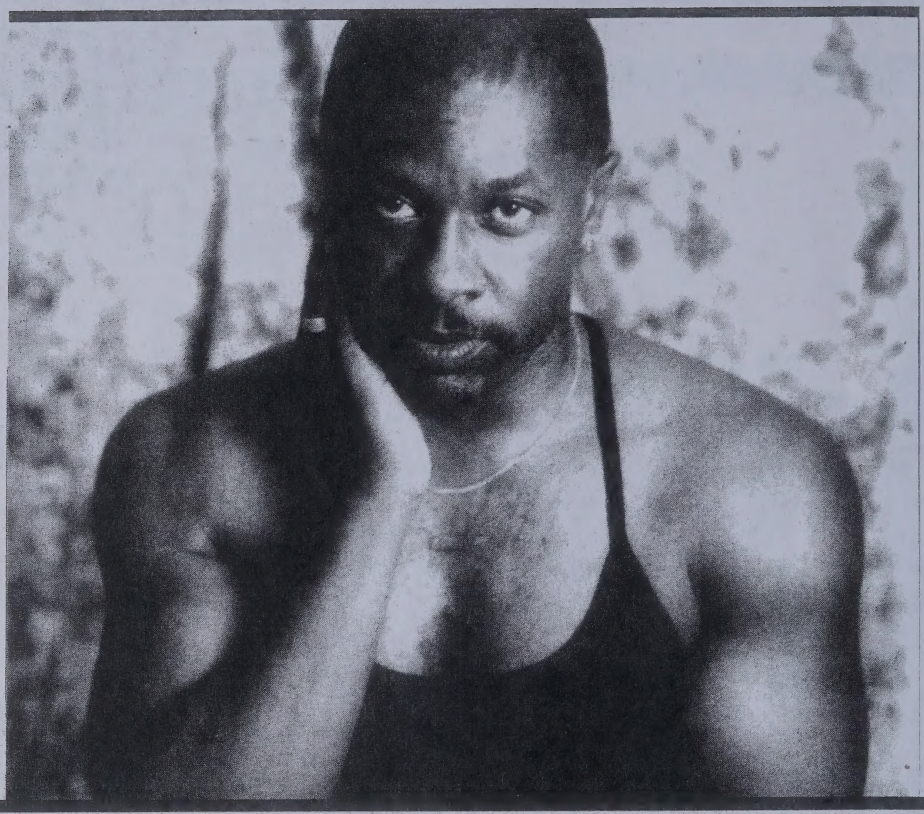


Tax Hints to Save You Money

Black Panther Huey Newton on Gay Rights



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IT ONLY TAKES ABOUT 20 MINUTES

Word Up

News of the Outrageous, the Amusing, the Pathetic and the Unexpected by Leon Miller

BLK Computers

The new microcomputers are now available in a variety of configurations from the BLK 286 laptops to the BLK 486 towers with super VGA monitors and 200MB hard drives. Prices range from $1395 to $6895.

But BLK in this case is associated with Blackship Computer Systems, Inc. of Fremont, Calif. I have no idea how good their equipment is, but they have received kudos from *Byte*, *PC*, *InfoWorld* and *PC World*.

It's probably doesn't make sense to buy a computer based just on a cute name, but wouldn't it be straight up to have a BLK computer on my BLK desk.

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Separate Tables

Outweek reports that Arista Records, Whitney Houston's label, has decreed that the singer and good friend Robin Crawford spend less time together in public.

Both flew to Tampa for the Superbowl, the magazine said, but did so on separate planes, and once there, the duo stayed in separate hotels.

Crawford attended SB XXV, according to *Outweek*, but in seats far away from Houston.

UK: Yellow and Red Are Black

The Black Lesbian and Gay Centre Project in London offers the following definition of "black": "Descended (through one or both parents) from Africa, Asia (i.e., the Middle East to China, including the Pacific nations) and Latin America, and the original inhabitants of Australasia, North America and the islands of the Atlantic and Indian Ocean."

Brown Student Expelled for Being Anti-Black

Doug Hann celebrated his 21st birthday shouting, "Fuck you, niggers" to no one in particular, or maybe all the blacks at Brown University where he was then a student.

When one student asked him to stop being so loud and offensive, Hann retorted, "What are you, a faggot?" and then, "What are you, a Jew?" and finally, "Fucking Jew."

Following all due process, the genial Mr. Hann was expelled for violating the University's 1989 anti-harassment code which prohibits inappropriate, abusive, threatening or demeaning actions based on race, religion, gender, handicap, ethnicity, national origin or sexual orientation."

It couldn't have happened to a nicer fellow.

Brothers for Sale

Things evidently got a little hot at the first annual Black Models Ball to benefit the (non-gay) Black filmmaker Foundation.

The highlight of the dressy affair held at the Building in New York, was a celebrity auction with black men as the prizes, something we haven't seen in this country for over a little over a century.

Problem was that although the invitations clearly said that only women could join in the bidding, in the heat and humor of the evening, and with auctioneer Kim Coles intoning, "You can have this brother if the price is right," some brothers in fact did bid for other brothers.

In the end, none of the men got the final bid. But not without worrying the benefit's organizers. Breathing a collective sigh of heterosexual relief, the organizers intend to make it co-sexual next time. But that might just make it worse—or better. Now sisters will be able to bid for sisters.

Homosexuality, Explained

Chuck D of the rap group, Public Enemy, has an explanation for how African-American men become gay.

"Love between men shouldn't involve sex. People don't know what true love is," he says. "Even a man and a woman shouldn't just say, 'I'm going to sex you out' and what's going to be love. There are gays in the black community because black women are not being loved from the heart and black men are feeling alienated. This causes people to withdraw from the normal man/woman relationships."

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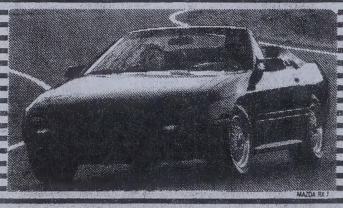

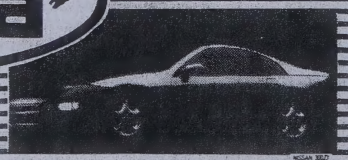

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ON THE COVER: Mitchell El-Mahdy. *Photo by Bruce Hunt.*

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Tax Strategies

A few last minute hints for lesbians and gay men who haven't yet made peace with the IRS

By Caesar Rucker

January 1 through April 15 is the official income tax filing season, but when you cross Gay Time with CPT, it means some folks habitually compress it into the final few days before the mid-month deadline. It's a time of stress for everyone, and even more so for black lesbians and gay men who have *one more thing* to deal with in already stressed lives. Knowing that you are filling out the same forms as the straight folks next door, knowing that you are subject to the same penalties as the white couple down the block, yet knowing full well that the federal government is not fulfilling your needs as well as it does for the folks across and down the way, doesn't make the nasty process any easier.

COVER STORY

But for those who have chosen *not* to engage in tax resistance, there are a few things you can do to make the bite a little less painful. Depending on your individual situation, not only what you say, but how you say it, can mean the difference between owing the beloved Internal Revenue Service $900 or getting a refund of $1200. If you don't know where the booby traps are buried in the tax laws *and the loopholes*, you should consult a specialist. This article is no substitute for a trained professional. Its purpose is to provide general information and point out a few tax strategies that are sometimes overlooked. In all likelihood a good CPA, public accountant or tax preparer will have a few more up her or his sleeve that will be able to decrease the amount of taxes you owe or increase the size of that all-important refund check!

FILING STATUS

The first and most important step in preparing your taxes is to determine your filing status.

In the wake of lesbian and gay couples being recognized by the city of San Francisco and the current lobbying in Sacramento for the legalization of lesbian and gay marriages, it should not be ignored that the "Married Filing Jointly" status—generally recognized as the most advantageous filing status—is unavailable to lesbian and gay couples due to the requirement "married."

The second most advantageous filing status is "Head of Household." This is especially relevant to our lifestyle because a substantial number of black lesbians and gay men are single parents. To qualify for the Head of Household filing status you must pay more than half the total cost of providing a home for your child, parent, or *any relative* that you also claim as a dependent. (For these purposes a dependent child is defined by IRS as your child, stepchild, foster child or *any child who lives in your home for the whole year.*

Example: Terry and Charles live together and raise Terry's 11 year-old son. Terry qualifies as Head of Household. Charles must file as single. Suppose the three lived together but Terry was unemployed and Charles was the only working individual in the home. Charles may qualify as Head of Household, but this is a gray area. Consult a tax professional and outline your specific circumstances.

Example: Haroldine and her mother share a home. Both contribute to the upkeep. Haroldine's annual income is $35,000. Her mother is retired and receives $8400 annually from social security and SSI. Haroldine qualifies as Head of Household because she contributes more than half of the cost of keeping up the home.

If there are absolutely *no* dependent relatives available, the next alternative is the 'Single' filing status. This is a very unadvantageous filing status and should be used only as a last resort.

EARNED INCOME CREDIT

This is a credit available to parents with annual incomes of less than $20,264. To qualify for this credit you must be providing a home for your child, stepchild, grandchild, etc.

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS

The tax law requires that you provide a social security number for any dependent child over the age of two. If you have not obtained one, make arrangements to do so immediately, but do not delay filing your taxes for this reason. As of last year IRS was still flexible on enforcement of this law. Individuals who did not list social security numbers for the children were sent their refunds anyway. However, expect more rigid enforcement of this law in the next few years.

CHILD CARE CREDIT

This credit is for fees paid to child care centers and/or individuals for day care, before- and after-school care, babysitting, etc. (Child care should not be confused with child support payments.) A credit of up to $2400 for one child or $4800 for two or more is available to parents that paid for child care.

Tax law requires that you list the name, address and employer identification number of the child care center or the social security number of the individual to whom the child care was paid. The IRS is flexible on enforcement of this law, but, as with the dependent child social security number requirements, I expect this flexibility to be temporary. Plan to be able to provide the name, address and employer I.D. or social security numbers this year or as soon as possible.

LONG FORM vs. SHORT FORM

Form 1040A is considered a short form and is used by individuals who have chosen not to itemize, or list, each of their deductions.

When form 1040, the *long* form, is used, your deductions are itemized on Schedule A. Use the long form if:

- You are buying a home and paying interest on the mortgage.

- Your medical and dental expenses for the family (including insurance premiums deducted from your paycheck, transportation to and from medical facilities, paramedic bills, prescriptions, braces, eye exams, etc.) exceed 7.5 percent of your adjusted gross income.
- You have work-related travel and education (including union dues, uniforms, dry-cleaning for uniforms, tax preparation fees) amounting to more that two percent of your adjusted gross income.
- You made substantial charitable contributions.
- You had uninsured losses and thefts (including auto accidents, damage to your home from natural disasters, etc.) that exceeded 10 percent of your adjusted gross income.
- You moved over 35 miles to be closer to a *new* job.

Any combination of the above should exceed: $3250 for a person filing single; or, $4750 for a person qualifying as Head of Household.

OWNING/OPERATING A BUSINESS

If you own and operate *any* business (from selling Tupperware to running a corporation), the key to saving tax dollars is *documentation* of *all* business-related expenses. Obtain a Schedule C from IRS and familiarize yourself with what expenses are deductible. A few examples of deductible expenses often forgotten are:

- *Meals and entertainment*—Keep your receipts from any and all restaurants and fast food spots. Jot down the name of the client you entertained on the back. If you went out for cocktails, acquaint one or more friends with your product or service and ask the bartender for either a tab or a receipt.
- *Advertising*—Keep all receipts for business cards, flyers, classified and display ads in BLK and other publications, etc.
- *Auto expense*—Keep a record of what percentage (or how many miles) of your driving is related to your business. This same percentage will be applicable to your auto repairs. Using a credit card for your purchases is helpful but not necessary. (Written documentation with mileage and odometer will suffice.)
- *Business use of your home*—Take a deduction from your rent or mortgage payment for any parts of your home used *exclusively for your business.*

Example: Brian pays $875 rent monthly for his two bedroom apartment. Brian's apartment has seven rooms and he uses one bedroom ENTIRELY for his drafting and printing business. Therefore one seventh or 14 percent of his monthly rent ($125) is deductible.

If your business expenses exceed your business income, you had operated at a loss and this will decrease your taxes. (Keep in mind that operating at a loss *on paper* does not necessarily mean that you are not making money or that your business is not growing.)

INCOME PROPERTY

Taxpayers are entitled to a host of deductions on income property. For tax purposes income property is defined as any property you owned which was not occupied by you, a member of your family or anyone who owned a share of the property. As with business ownership, the key to saving money here is documentation of all of your expenses. Obtain a Schedule E form IRS and familiarize yourself with what expenses you can deduct. Painting, plumbing work, roofing, gardening fees, manager's fees, advertising for vacancies, utilities and fees for professional services (deed transfers, evictions, etc.) are just *some* of the deductions you may take.

If your documented expenses exceed your documented income, your Schedule E will show that you incurred a loss, thus *reducing* your taxes. On the other hand if the rents you collected exceed your expenses you will show a profit and this will *increase* your taxes.

IRA SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

This is still a very good tax deduction if your annual income is less than $35,000. IRA accounts are especially useful for single individuals with *no* children and *no other deductions.*

WITHHOLDING

The key to *avoid owing IRS at the end of the year* is *not to claim more exemptions than you are entitled to* during the year. Many people fall into the trap of claiming "exempt" or claiming eight or ten exemptions during the year. While this does indeed increase your take home pay, generally you will owe money at the end of the year.

When IRS redesigned the W-4, "Employees Withholding Allowance Certificate," the worksheet made it easier to claim too many exemptions. But the old rule still applies: If you are single, claim one or zero. If you are single with two children, claim three or fewer. Some exceptions to this rule are homeowners who have paid substantial interest during the year *and* certain individuals who have worked less than eight months or so.

BEING AUDITED

Many billings and correspondence from the IRS are not an actual audit and are the cause of unnecessary anxiety and concern. Only if you receive correspondence that reads "we are *examining* your tax return for the year..." or "We have selected your return for *examination...*" you are being audited. Unless you are familiar with the audit process and have kept excellent receipts and documentation of each and every deduction you claimed, this is another situation in which you should contact a competent professional. It is important to know that *most* people will owe IRS additional money at the end of an audit for deductions taken that cannot be documented. The key to minimizing the amount you are assessed is keeping *receipts*. Check page two of your audit notice and determine what categories are being questioned. Here are just some of the steps you can take:

- *Call doctors' offices and medical facilities and ask the billing department for a "Statement of Charges" for the year in question.* Usually they will be happy to mail this to you. Generally this statement will show insured and uninsured charges and this is helpful in documenting your medical deductions.
- If you can no longer locate your interest receipts, call or write to mortgage companies, loan companies and credit card companies and ask for documentation of the amount of interest paid in a certain year. (As of this year, there is only a 10 percent deduction for credit card interest and none at all after this year.)
- Call your church business office and ask for written (on letterhead paper) documentation of all donations.
- Call schools for transcripts of children's records to substantiate their address and establish that they did indeed reside with you.

OWING THE IRS

If due to underwithholding, an audit or other misfortune you end up owing the IRS an amount that you can't pay, there are a few steps that you can take to ease the situation. One strategy is to delay filing until next year. It will *generally* take IRS 12 to 18 months to realize that you did not file this year's taxes if you filed last year's taxes on time. If you choose this method you must change your withholdings to zero (your paycheck *will* be smaller). File this year's taxes

along with next year's taxes and with luck the refund due to you for next year will counterbalance the amount you owe plus interest for this year.

Alternately, you can file your return and choose to make monthly payments. When you telephone IRS and explain your situation, the agent will usually propose a dollar amount as the minimum monthly payment the IRS will accept. If this amount is outrageous—and it usually is—explain that you have a lot of other expenses and obligations and ask to speak to the supervisor or manager of the unit. You will probably be mailed a form that requests you to list all your bills and expenses. Be sure to list all of your bills—*even those that you may currently be unable to pay*—so that your monthly payments will be lower.

If you find that you owe the IRS because of an audit, the strategy is pretty much the same. Arrange for monthly payments if you can, or claim fewer deductions than you are entitled to during the year; any refund due you next year will be applied to your tax bill. Remember, you can only ignore IRS for so long! If the amount you owe is in the neighborhood of $2500 or less, IRS will continue billing you *and adding interest* for about a year. After that they will take steps to:

- Levy any bank accounts in your name.
- Attach your wages and garnish your paycheck. (If you have changed jobs since you last filed taxes it *may* take them an additional year or so to locate where you are working.)
- Put a lien on any real estate you own.

If IRS institutes any of the above, they must by law notify you in writing before doing so. Of course, if your address has changed, you may not receive the notices.

NOT FILING RETURNS

You *must* file a federal income tax return if:

- you were single and earned at least $5300, or
- you were Head of Household and earned at least $6300, or
- you were self-employed and had net earnings of $400.

However, even if you made less than these amounts and there were taxes withheld, you are probably entitled to a *refund* of most, if not all, of the taxes withheld. If you do not file you are essentially *giving* the government any refund that may be due you.

If you do not file taxes or you know someone who does not file, ask this question: In today's economy, with the price of cigarettes over two bucks a pack, and vacations in Hawaii or Brazil at bargain prices, where many wealthy persons and millionaires pay no taxes at all—given the many tax shelters and loopholes available only to the rich—can you afford to *give* the government your tax refund?

The federal tax code is volumes and volumes. You could barbecue marshmellows for hours watching it burn. Thus, while many returns lend themselves to standardized preparation, a good professional can sift through the regulations to find the best solution to your individualized needs.

There *are* ways to go it alone, of course. The IRS has scores of pamplets—some free, some not—that can help. You can call 800-829-1040 for free help over the phone. There are hundreds of do-it-yourself guides at your local bookstore. And for the technically minded, there is software for your personal computer.

But whatever route you take, be careful. These folks at the IRS be righteously serious about getting as much of your money as they can!

Caesar Rucker operates a home-based income tax preparation service in Hawthorne, Calif. Having served individuals and small businesses in the black, lesbian and gay community since 1976, he is one of the professionals that you may contact.

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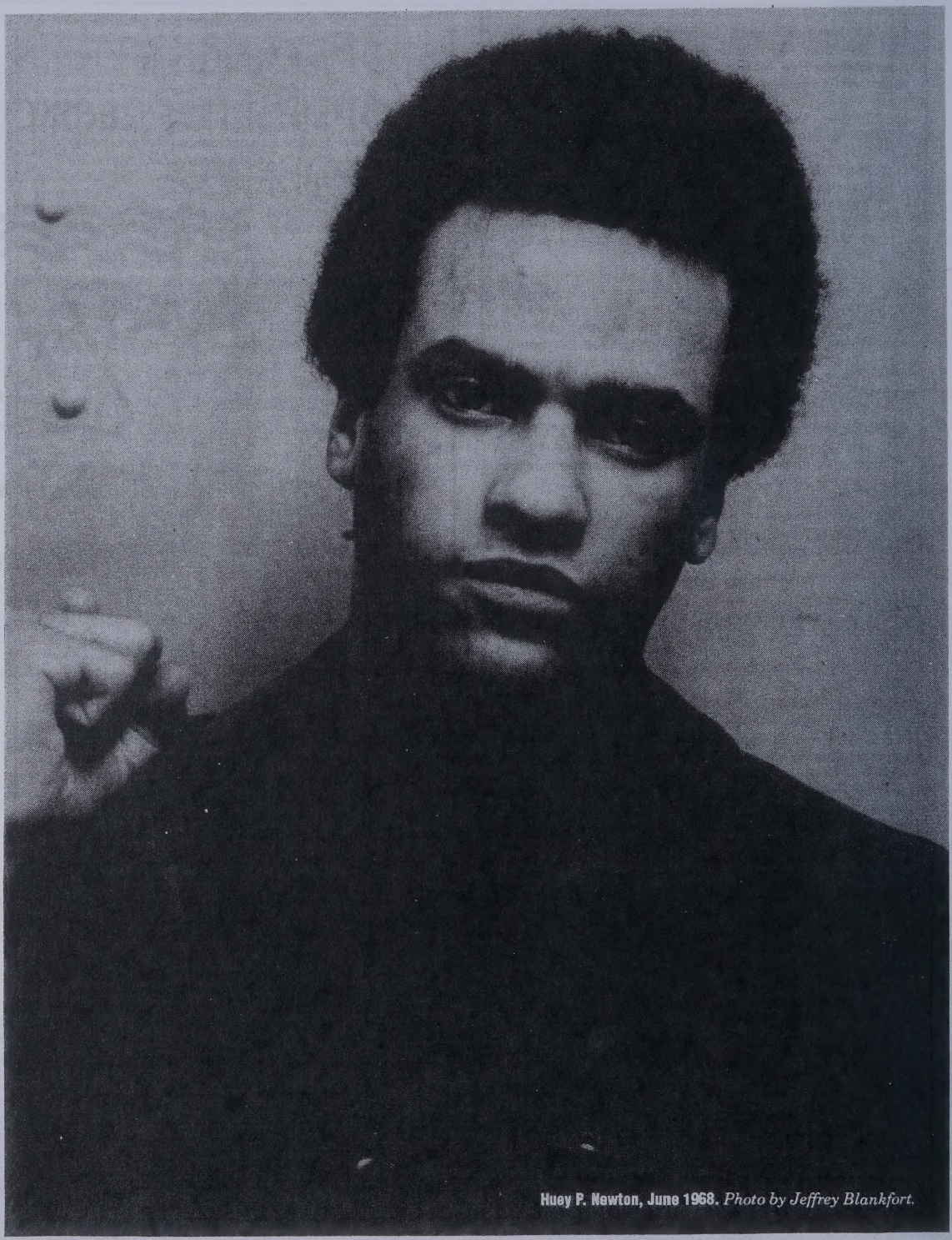

Huey P. Newton, June 1968. *Photo by Jeffrey Blankfort.*

Newton's Law

Historic Black Panther letter tries for coalition with black lesbians and gay men

By Alycee J. Lane

"We want the right of self-determination for all third world and gay people, as well as control of the destinies of our own communities."

This demand was the first of 12 published anonymously in the Nov. 13-20, 1970 issue of the underground newspaper *The Berkeley Tribe*. Under the title "Third World Gay Revolution: What We Want," the demands, which in substance comprised a Third World Gay manifesto[1], were almost an *exact* duplicate of those in the Black Panther Party's Ten-Point Platform and Program. Some of them, in fact, deviated from the Party's demands *only* when such words as "black community" were substituted with "third world and gay people."

HISTORY

The authors of "Third World Gay Revolution" were not the only group to model their manifesto after the Panther Platform. So also did the Young Lords, a revolutionary Puerto Rican liberation party, as well as several Black Student Unions across the country. Yet, the authors were not simply using the Panther Platform for a mere model. The authors were, more importantly, signifying on their *exclusion* from the dialogue that was occurring between the Black Panther Party (BPP) and the whites involved in the lesbian and gay liberation movement. This dialogue was opened by Huey Newton himself—co-founder and Minister of Defense of the BPP—who, on Aug. 15, 1970 published in the Party's newspaper *The Black Panther* an open letter "to the revolutionary brothers and sisters about the women's liberation and gay liberation movements." In this letter, Newton called for Panther support of and coalition with these struggles.

Both Newton's letter and the responses it received from many white lesbian and gay liberationists were marked by a complete lack of awareness regarding the fact that Third World lesbians and gay men not only *existed*, but also that they comprised an essential link between the Third World and the lesbian and gay liberation movements. Because this connection was not recognized, the attempts at coalition were shaky, at best. The authors of the manifesto, then, ultimately provided the missing link by outlining their specific struggle and its connection to—as well as differences with—*both* liberation movements.

The Newton Letter. The historical significance of Huey Newton's letter should not be underestimated. It was the *first* time *any* non-gay black organization—whether mainstream, like the NAACP, or radical, like Ron Karenga's US—recognized the oppression of homophobia; connected that oppression to the plight of black people; and attempted —based on that connection—to build coalitions openly with lesbians and gay men. The community context out of which Newton wrote the letter further underscores its significance: not only were several black nationalists loudly proclaiming that homosexuality was a white man's disease and that its manifestation within black communities was a result of white colonial rule, but Newton's own Minister of Information and Chairman—Eldridge Cleaver and Bobby Seale, respectively—had themselves often freely expressed their homophobia. In *Soul On Ice*, Cleaver connected homosexuality with capitalism and spiritual decadence; in *Seize the Time*, Seale simply concurred with Cleaver's assumptions. Apparently signifying on both officers, Newton wrote, "some people say that [homosexuality is a result of] the decadence of capitalism. I don't know whether this is the case; I rather doubt it. But whatever the case is, we know that homosexuality is a fact that exists, and we must understand it in its purest form: That is, a person should have freedom to use his body in whatever way he wants to." Considering the context, Newton took a serious risk; he could have experienced substantial fall-out from black communities and from his own ranks as well.[2]

The letter is not without its problems, however. Not only is it riddled with Newton's own homophobia (which he acknowledges throughout), but it's tone is sexist. While supposedly addressing both "brothers" and "sisters," Newton easily fell into a dialogue with brothers only. For instance, Newton wrote, "we should be willing to discuss the insecurities that many people have about homosexuality. When I say 'insecurities,' I mean the fear that they're some kind of threat to *our manhood*" (my emphasis). Also, his primary focus was on *male* homosexuals; he referred only briefly to lesbians, and didn't even broach the fears "sisters" may have had regarding homosexuality.

The distance with which Newton discussed gay liberation suggests that he was unable to recognize or grapple with the existence of black lesbians and gay men. As a result, the letter reveals his "them" versus "us" position:

> We must always handle social forces in the most appropriate manner. And this is really a significant part of the population both women, and the growing number of homosexuals that *we have to deal with* (my emphasis).

Newton's "we" is empty of lesbians and gay men. Our inclusion would have, I think, required a totally different kind of letter from Newton, one grounded very much in home territory; meaning, he would have needed to address the fact that homosexuals were a "significant part" of the black population. The "them-us" dichotomy is emphasized further by the picture accompanying the letter, which shows white lesbians and gay men walking a picket line.

Finally, Newton assumed that lesbians and gay men were not within the ranks of the Panthers themselves. One has to wonder what his conceptualization of coalition would have been had he made this assumption. I think it is safe to claim that Newton was specifically addressing white lesbians and

Third World Gay Revolution

Sisters and brothers of the Third World, you who call yourselves "revolutionaries" have failed to deal with sexist attitudes. Instead, you cling to male supremacy and therefore to the conditioned role of oppressors. Brothers still fight for the privileged position of man on the top. Sisters quickly fall in line behind their men. By your counter revolutionary struggle to maintain and to force heterosexuality and the nuclear family, you perpetuate outmoded remnants of capitalism. By your anti-homosexual stance, you have used the weapons of the oppressor, thereby becoming the agent of the oppressor.

It is up to Third World males to realistically define masculinity because it is you, who, throughout your lives have struggled to gain the unrealistic role of "men." Third World men have always tried to reach this precarious position by climbing on the backs of women and homosexuals. "Masculinity" has been defined by white society as the amount of possessions (including women) a man collects, and the amount of physical power gained over other men. Third World men have been denied even the false standards of "masculinity." Therefore, stop perpetuating in yourselves and your community the white supremacist's notions which are basic to your own oppression.

We, as Third World gay people suffer a triple oppression:

1. We are oppressed as people because our humanity is routinely devoured by the carnivorous system of capitalism.

2. We are oppressed as Third World people by the economically inherent racism of white Amerikan society.

3. We are oppressed by the sexism of white society and the verbal and physical abuse of masculinity-deprived Third World males.

The right of self determination over domination of one's own body is a human right and this right must be defended with one's body being put on the line.

By the actions you have taken against your gay brothers and sisters of the Third World, you, who throughout your lives have suffered the torments of social oppression and sexual repression, have now placed yourselves in the role of oppressor.

Anti-homosexuality fosters sexual repression, male supremacy, weakness in revolutionary drive and results in an inaccurate non-objective political perspective.

What We Want

What we want:
What we believe:

1. We want the right of self-determination for all third world and gay people, as well as control of the destinies of our communities.

We believe that third world and gay people will not be free until we are able to determine our own destinies. The system must be changed. Socialism is the answer.

2. We want the right of self-determination over the use of our bodies; the right to be gay, any time, any place. The right to free physiological change and modification of sex on demand. The right of free dress and adornment. We believe that these are human rights which must be defended with our bodies being put on the line. Our system as it exists now denies these basic human rights by implementing forced heterosexuality.

3. We want full protection of the law and social sanction for all modes of human sexual self-expression. We believe that present laws are oppressive to third world and gay people, and as such, expose the inequalities of capitalism. Capitalism can only exist in a state where there are oppressed people or groups. This must end. The system must be changed. Socialism is the answer.

4. We want liberation for women. We want free and safe birth control information and devices on demand. We want free 24-hour child care centers controlled by those who use them. We want access for women to all educational opportunities. We want truthful teaching of women's history. We want an end to preferential hiring against women and oppressed National Minorities.

We believe that the liberation of women is a problem for humanity itself, and that regardless of the ideology of some political groups, the struggle must be to abolish capitalism, not to reform men. The abolition of capitalism is a precondition for total emancipation of women.

5. We want the abolition of the nuclear bourgeois family. We believe that it perpetuates the false categories of homosexuality and heterosexuality by creating sex roles and sex definitions. The nuclear family propagates capitalism: the woman is an instrument of production.

6. We want a free educational system that teaches us our true identity and history, and presents the entire range of human sexuality without advocating any one form or style; that sex roles and sex-determined skills not be fostered by the schools; that language be modified so that no gender takes priority. We believe that we have been taught to compete with our sisters and brothers for power, and from that competitive attitude grows sexism, racism, male and national chauvinism and distrust of our sisters and brothers. It is every child's right to develop in a non-sexist, non-racist, non-possessive atmosphere which is the responsibility of all people to create. As we begin to understand these things within ourselves, we attempt to free ourselves of them and are moved toward a revolutionary consciousness.

7. We want full employment for third world and gay people. We believe that the government is responsible and obligated to give every woman and man employment or a guaranteed income. Being interested only in profits, capitalism cannot meet the needs of the people.

8. We want decent housing, fit for the shelter of human beings. We believe that this is a basic need and right which must not be denied on any grounds. Landlords are capitalists, and, like all capitalists, are motivated only by the accumulation of profits, as opposed to the welfare of the people.

9. We want all third world and gay people when brought to trial, to be tried by a peoples court with a jury of their peers from their community. A peer is a person from similar social, economic, geographical, racial, historical, environmental and sexual background. We have been and are being tried by all-white, sexist juries that have no understanding of the average third world gay woman or man. We believe that this can never come about in the judicial system as it exists now.

10. We want an immediate end to police brutality and murder of third world and gay people.

11. We want all third world and gay men to be exempt from military service. We also want an immediate end to military oppression both at home and abroad. We believe that third world and gay people should not be forced to fight in the military service to defend a racist and sexist government that does not protect us. The only true army of oppressed people is the people's army and we believe that third world and gay people should have full participation in the People's Revolutionary Army.

12. We want an end to all organized religions because they aid in the genocide of third world and gay people by teaching hatred and superstition.

13. We want a new society—a socialist society. We want liberation, food, shelter, clothing, transportation, health care, employment, and utilities for all. We want a society where the needs of our people come first. We believe that all people should share the labor and products of society, according to each one's needs and abilities, regardless of race, sex, or sexual orientation. We believe that technology should be used to liberate all peoples of the world. Capitalism, in all its various forms, promotes the domination of one person by another.

—*Berkeley Tribe*, Nov. 13-20, 1970

gay men who were, undoubtedly, much more visible in the liberation movement.

Newton's Letter: The Reception. The publication of Newton's letter was met with silence in black newspapers and magazines. Though the Panthers were at their peak in popularity (an April 13, 1970 public opinion poll of black communities revealed that 62 percent of those polled expressed great admiration for the Party and their programs) and were the subject of much debate regarding their activities, ideology, and coalitions, the letter nevertheless did not receive any attention.

The lesbian and gay underground press responded much differently. Many chose to simply reprint the letter, without any accompanying editorial. Others, however, used the opportunity to either distance the lesbian and gay liberation movement from the black liberation movement or used the opportunity to affirm—while simultaneously qualifying—connections between the struggles. In the *Advocate,* for example, under the title "Sorry, Huey" (Oct. 14-27, 1970), the editors wrote that "we suspect that your newfound friendliness is not so much for our own good as it is to strengthen your own group through alliances—no matter that these alliances may be very distasteful to your followers (ask Eldridge Cleaver)." Compelled to clearly delineate the position of *white* gay men (which, to me, is implicit in the very language of the statement), the editors further asserted that the "overwhelming majority of gays, we believe, do not want to destroy this nation and replace it with—well, what are you going to replace it with?"

The Great Speckled Bird (Oct. 4, 1970), on the other hand, reprinted the letter with a response from Jerry Dreva of the Milwaukee Gay Liberation Front in support of the Panther's "first step." The Dreva letter was also an attempt to clear up Newton's "lack of deep understanding of the Gay Liberation Movement," for Dreva outlined specifically the public (as well as Newton's) misperceptions of homosexuality and also the particular oppression homosexuals face.

The Coalition. Women's and gay liberation groups were hopeful that the new alliance would work, and the Revolutionary People's Constitutional Convention (Nov. 1970)—called by the Panthers—was to become its testing ground.

The Convention itself was planned as a gathering of revolutionaries from around the country to create an alternative to the U.S. Constitution, an alternative which would, according to Newton, "guarantee that within the socialist framework all groups will be adequately represented in the decision-making and administration which affects their lives." At the plenary session held on Sept. 5, 1970, gay and feminist groups participated in large numbers. Yet, the enthusiasm that they brought to the session was quickly marred by their realization that the Panthers, in fact, had not changed their attitudes toward women in general and lesbians and gay men in particular. The experiences of the New York Radical Lesbians is a case in point. Comprised of white women, the group in an open letter published in *The Berkeley Tribe* (Oct. 30-Nov. 6, 1970) detailed the roadblocks Panther men *and* women erected to prevent them from not only meeting in workshop sessions but from including their specific needs within the People's Constitution. They wrote, "speaking from our guts, from the depth of our oppression, we say that the Black Panthers are sexist; that the Black Panther Party, supposedly our brothers in revolution, oppresses us in a doubly painful thing. But we will take no one's shit." The N.Y. Radical Lesbians' open letter inspired other women to also share their negative experiences and, as a result, once-hopeful organizations immediately withdrew their support of the Panthers. Angela Douglas of the Transvestite-Transsexual Action Organization in Tallahassee, Fla., for example, wrote to the *Advocate* that "as a result of the refusal of the Black Panther Party to accept the demands of gay women...I withdraw all support previously given to the Black Panther Party and declare myself to be an enemy of the Black Panther Party" (Nov. 11-24, 1970). The Gay Liberation Front (GLF), however, maintained—but cautiously—its alliance with the Panthers.

Just as Newton failed to address the existence of black lesbians and gay men or, more broadly, lesbians and gay men of the Third World, so also did white gay liberationists. As a result, each side maintained a homogeneous vision of their respective movements—black liberation was distinctly heterosexual; gay liberation was distinctly white. Neither challenged each other's vision. In the absence of this challenge, the Panthers easily dismissed many lesbian and gay concerns, and whites themselves—whose expectations of an *immediate* change in Panther sexist and homophobic attitudes was, at best, unrealistic (only the GLF recognized Newton's letter as a "first step")—could confidently assert that the Panthers were not at all sincere.

"Unless Huey P. Newton does more than make self-serving statements about the oppression of gay people and women" Angela Douglas wrote the *Advocate,* "your editorial ["Sorry, Huey"] must be recognized as completely correct and valid."

Neither side realized, ultimately, that the coalition was indeed *dependent* upon the recognition of black lesbians and gay men, whose investment in black and gay liberation connected the struggles and posed a challenge to the hegemonic assumptions of both movements. Yet, the burden of responsibility also fell on other shoulders. Black, or more generally, Third World lesbians and gay men were strangely silent as the dialogue and attempts at coalition raged. Finally, two months following the Plenary Session and one week prior to the Constitutional Convention itself, they broke their silence, but by this time, the Panthers had already experienced fallout from various gay and women's groups, and the fragile coalition was rapidly deteriorating.

Third World Gay Revolution. The publication of the Third World Gay Revolution manifesto was, in spite of its late arrival, an important and powerful entry into the Panther-gay liberation dialogue. And while the authors detailed the particular oppression, demands and beliefs of Third World lesbians, they simultaneously *signified* on the Panthers and white gay liberationists—"read" them, so to speak, for their narrow focus and agenda.

In the accompanying preface, for instance, the authors addressed the manifesto to "the sisters and brothers of the Third World, you who call yourselves 'revolutionaries'," clearly mimicking the address of Newton's letter, itself written to "revolutionary brothers and sisters." Through this gesture, they were questioning that revolutionary status, and quickly pointed out that "male supremecy" and homophobia continued to be embraced by Third World liberation groups. The authors concluded the preface with a charge that defined the relationship between these groups and Third World gays and lesbians, one which ultimately positioned the liberation groups as *counterrevolutionary*:

> By the actions you have taken against your gay brothers and sisters of the Third World, you...have now placed yourself in the role of oppressor.

A Letter from Huey to the Revolutionary Brothers and Sisters about the Women's Liberation and Gay Liberation Movements

During the past few years, strong movements have developed among women and among homosexuals seeking their liberation. There has been some uncertainty about how to relate to these movements.

Whatever your personal opinions and your insecurities about homosexuality and the various liberation movements among homosexuals and women (and I speak of the homosexuals and women as oppressed groups), we should try to unite with them in a revolutionary fashion. I say "whatever your insecurities are" because, as we very well know sometimes our first instinct is to want to hit a homosexual in the mouth and want a woman to be quiet. We want to hit the homosexual in the mouth because we're afraid we might be homosexual; and we want to hit the woman or shut her up because we're afraid that she might castrate us, or take the nuts that we might not have to start with.

We must gain security in ourselves and therefore have respect and feelings for all oppressed people. We must not use the racist type attitude like the White racists use against people because they are Black and poor. Many times the poorest White person is the most racist, because he's afraid that he might lose something, or discover something that he doesn't have; you're some kind of threat to him. This kind of psychology is in operation when we view oppressed people and we're angry with them because of their particular kind of behavior, or their particular kind of deviation from the established norm.

Remember, we haven't established a revolutionary value system; we're only in the process of establishing it. I don't remember us ever constituting any value that said that a revolutionary must say offensive things towards homosexuals, or that a revolutionary should make sure that women do not speak out about their own particular kind of oppression. Matter of fact it's just the opposite: we say that we recognize the women's right to be free. We haven't said much about the homosexual at all, and we must relate to the homosexual movement because it's a real thing. And I know through reading and through my life experience, my observations, that homosexuals are not given freedom and liberty by anyone in the society. Maybe they might be the most oppressed people in the society.

And what made them homosexual? Perhaps it's a whole phenomena that I don't understand entirely. Some people say that it's the decadence of capitalism. I don't know whether this is the case; I rather doubt it. But whatever the case is, we know that homosexuality is a fact that exists, and we must understand it in its purest form: That is, a person should have freedom to use his body in whatever way he wants to. That's not endorsing things in homosexuality that we wouldn't view as revolutionary. But there's nothing to say that a homosexual cannot also be a revolutionary. And maybe I'm now injecting some of my prejudice by saying that "even a homosexual can be a revolutionary." Quite on the contrary, maybe a homosexual could be the most revolutionary.

When we have revolutionary conferences, rallies and demonstrations there should be full participation of the gay liberation movement and the women's liberation movement. Some groups might be more revolutionary than others. We shouldn't use the actions of a few to say that they're all reactionary or counterrevolutionary, because they're not.

We should deal with the factions just as we deal with any other group or party that claims to be revolutionary. We should try to judge somehow, whether they're operating sincerely, in a revolutionary fashion, from a really oppressed situation. (And we'll grant that if they're women, they're probably oppressed.) If they do things that are un-revolutionary or counter-revolutionary, then criticize that action. If we feel that the group in spirit means to be revolutionary in practice, but they make mistakes in interpretation of the revolutionary philosophy, or they don't understand the dialectics of the social forces in operation, we should criticize that and not criticize them because they're women trying to be free. And the same is true for homosexuals. We should never say a whole movement is dishonest, when in fact they're trying to be honest, they're just making honest mistakes. Friends are allowed to make mistakes. The enemy is not allowed to make mistakes because his whole existence is a mistake, and we suffer from it. But the womens liberation front and gay liberation front are our friends, they are potential allies, and we need as many allies as possible.

We should be willing to discuss the insecurities that many people have about homosexuality. When I say "insecurities," I mean the fear that they're some kind of threat to our manhood. I can understand this fear. Because of the long conditioning process which builds insecurity in the American male, homosexuality might produce certain hangups in us. I have hangups myself about male homosexuality. Where, on the other hand, I have no hangup about female homosexuality. And that's phenomena in itself. I think it's probably because male homosexuality is a threat to me, maybe and the females are no threat.

We should be careful about using those terms that might turn our friends off. The terms "faggot" and "punk" should be deleted from our vocabulary, and especially we should not attach names normally designed for homosexuals to men who are enemies of the people, such as Nixon or Mitchell. Homosexuals are not enemies of the people.

We should try to form a working coalition with the Gay liberation and Women's liberation groups. We must always handle social forces in the most appropriate manner. And this is really a significant part of the population: both women, and the growing number of homosexuals that we have to deal with.

ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE!

Huey P. Newton
Supreme Commander
Black Panther Party

—*The Black Panther*, August 15, 1970

As was mentioned previously, the authors also modeled their manifesto after the BPP Platform and Program, and did so in a way that broadened the Platform's scope. Not only were the issues of gays and lesbians added, but other People of Color were incorporated as well through the use of the term "Third World." And, specific demands calling for women's liberation and an end to sexism were crucial aspects of this new manifesto. Such additions signaled to the Panthers that if they were going to embrace women's and gay liberation, then they needed to reflect this not only in their rhetoric but in their organizational structure as well.

Yet, there was a flip-side to reframing the Panther Platform. The maneuver signaled—or should have signaled—to white lesbians and gays that those of the Third World were completely invested in the struggles of their communities, and invested in the very issues that the *Panthers* were raising. This is evident by the fact that, fundamentally, *none* of the Panther demands were eliminated. If anything, they were modified to reflect a Third World gay and lesbian perspective. Thus, any easy dismissal of the Panthers was not only a cop-out from the hard work of coalition, but it was, more significantly, an indication of the racial hegemony that many white gays and lesbians wished to maintain. That wish, as I pointed out, was clearly spoken in the *Advocate* editorial "Sorry, Huey." The editors just could *not* imagine the society the Panthers called for—one where blacks could be free from police brutality, be fully employed, adequately housed, etc. Such imaginings required a different perception of power between whites and People of Color, and, frankly, many white gay liberationists were not interested at all in changing the status quo.

The most important aspect of the Third World Gay manifesto, however, was not the fact that it signified, but instead that it was the articulation of a distinct movement. In other words, it was a call to Third World lesbians and gays to begin their own organizing around the issues of racism, sexism, classism, and homophobia.

Unlike the BPP Platform, the Gay manifesto located the self and the home as places of radical transformation:

> We want the right of self-determination over the use of our bodies....
>
> We want full protection of law and social sanction for all modes of human sexual self-expression....
>
> We want the abolition of the nuclear bourgeois family....

Though the Panthers expressed at the plenary session of the Constitutional Convention that these represented "bourgeois concerns" (white gays and lesbians brought up similar demands), the authors of the manifesto on the contrary felt that the home was the place where societal ills were perpetually reinforced. Regarding the "nuclear bourgeois family," for instance, the authors charged that "it perpetuates the false categories of homosexuality by creating sex roles and sex definitions. The nuclear family propogates capitalism. The woman is an instrument of production." The self and the family, in other words, were very powerful instruments of oppression, and if they were not tranformed, then society itself could not be revolutionized.

The authors also confronted the church. Though not going so far as to call for an abolition of spiritual/religious belief, they did, however, call for "an end to all organized religions." Without in-depth elaboration, the writers simply claimed that organized religions "aid in the genocide of third world and gay people by teaching hatred and superstition."

Implicit in these demands is the belief that heterosexuals are themselves oppressed by the very system they wish to maintain; that a call for a "Third World Gay Revolution" is more than freeing lesbian and gay men from heterosexist oppression. The call is for a reconceptualization of human relations—one not predicated on capitalism, which "promotes the domination of one person by another," but on "a new society —a socialist society" where "we are able to determine our own destinies." As long as both heterosexuals and homosexuals remain invested in capitalism, the authors were saying, then oppression would continue.

By publishing the Third World Gay Revolution manifesto two weeks prior to the Constitutional Convention, the authors were no doubt providing *their* vision of the "socialist framework" that Newton was determined to create. And their vision necessarily demanded that the Panthers and white lesbians and gay men attend to their own limitations and narrow focus, and begin the work of true coalition building.

"WHERE ARE THE GAY BLACK PANTHERS?" The manifesto, unfortunately, was not enough to strengthen the Panther-gay liberation alliance. Though the BPP and gay organizations would continue to work together on a number of issues—including Bobby Seale's 1973 Oakland mayoral campaign—their coalition would always be fraught with tension and distrust.

Perhaps, finally, what was needed was an answer to the one crucial question posed by the editors of the gay newspaper, *Gay Sunshine*, a question no one thought to ask as the coalitions were being forged: Where are the gay black panthers?

Where were they indeed?

For while the authors of the manifesto boldly insisted upon the connections between both movements, they certainly could have used the added strength of the lesbian and gay panthers themselves in order to insure that the alliance would hold. Nevertheless, the manifesto's publication was a beginning, a breaking of silence and an important phase in black lesbian and gay history.

NOTES

1. In keeping with the spirit of the manifesto, I have used "Third World" throughout the essay, even though I find the term problematic.

2. In fact, the risk was potentially disastrous in light of the FBI's agenda to destroy the party. Accord to Daniel Tsang, a social sciences researchers, the FBI used the open letter as an opportunity to discredit Newton's leadership. The FBI wrote bogus letters purporting to be from party members saying, "I have seen by last weeks paper that now Panthers are supposed to relate to cocksuckers. Huey is wrong. Something must have happened to him in prison. Panthers got enough things to do in 10 point program and fighting for niggers without taking up with mother fucking queers. All power to the people." Considering the FBI's tactics, it is not farfetched to assume that it probably worked to undermine more directly the Panther-gay liberation alliance.

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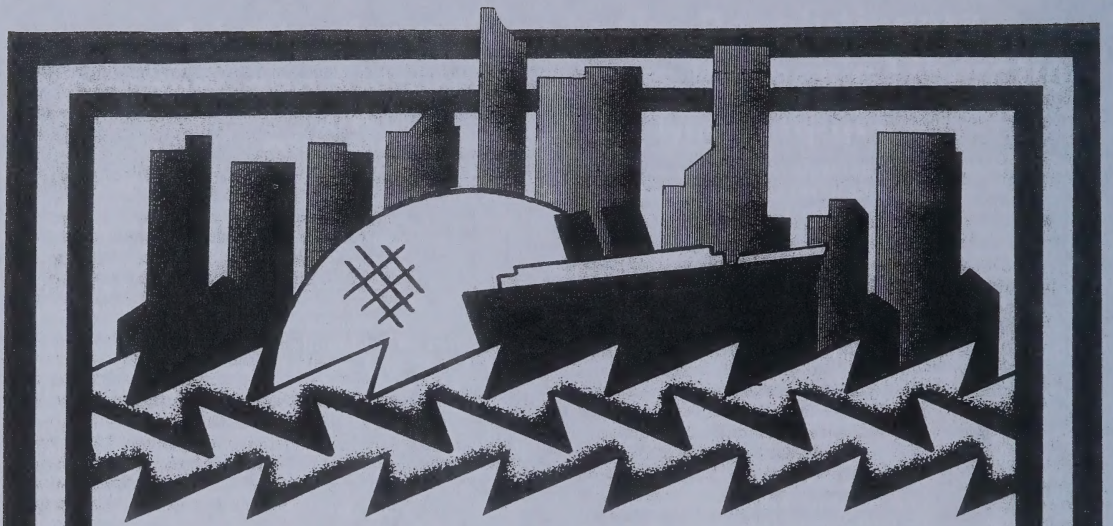

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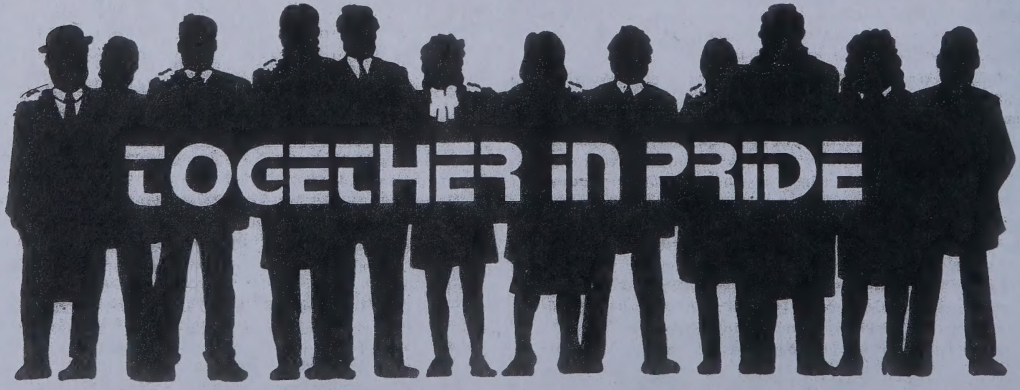
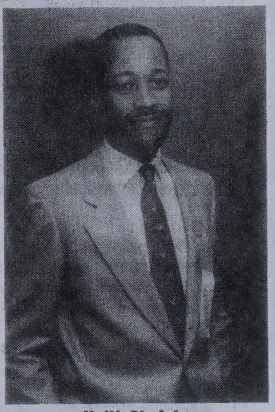


BLK NEWS

500 Attend Nine-Day National Black Conference in Los Angeles; Hill, St. John, Williams, Waters Speak

By Mark Haile, BLK Assistant Editor

LOS ANGELES—The Fourth National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference was everything it set out to be. It was the unequaled gathering together of the leaders of the African-American lesbian and gay community. It was the celebration of the year, with an unprecedented cultural festival, lavish banquet, and a recurrent sense of affirmation throughout nine days of non-stop activity.



Keith St. John

And yet it was more. There was a national response to the highly controversial Veterans Administration study suggesting people of color might not benefit from early intervention with AZT. There was a national response to a government that spent more money on a six-week war in the Middle East than on an 11-year-old war against AIDS in the black, lesbian and gay communities in the U.S.

There were nearly 500 activists, from college students to seniors, local Southern California residents and a contingent from London, England.

There was a memorial service to those who had died in the past year. There was time taken out to honor those living men and women who have toiled to carry the whole of the communities of African-American lesbians and gay men further forward.

Preceding the actual conference was an all-day leadership institute on Feb. 13. Put together by Phill Wilson and Sabrina Sojourner, it kicked off the first of a series of one-day tracks of related workshops that were mini-conferences of their own.

On Thursday, Feb. 14, was the third annual institute on AIDS/HIV disease in African-American communities, bringing together professionals in AIDS from every angle of the epidemic as well as black lesbians and gay men with HIV. Opening keynote was given by Reggie Williams, executive director of the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention.

Special caucuses and empowerment groups were held for African-Americans with HIV throughout the institute, the only such gathering of its size or scope in the country. Some 30 workshops made up the main body of the AIDS institute, from safer sex for lesbians, to planning effective outreach programs for black lesbian and gay youth, to a panel of serodifferent couples.

In addition to acknowledging the men and women who were committed to going back to their communities to pass on the knowledge received, a special note of recognition was given to George Bellinger, Jr. who, with Wilson, was also an organizer of the AIDS institute.

That same evening a memorial service was held featuring the Voices of Unity Gospel Choir from Unity Fellowship Church. The Rev. Carl Bean of Unity lead the tribute, remembering those who had died of AIDS, cancer and senseless violence.

Around the ballroom of the Hyatt Regency Hotel were panels from the Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt. A new panel for Ken McCune, a teacher and conference organizer with the Forum last year, hung directly behind the podium, providing a constant, silent reminder. The conference, in fact, was dedicated to the memory of McCune and two other organizers who died since the 1990 Atlanta Conference, Roger V. Pamplin, Jr. and Madame Edna Brown.

Friday was given over to the women's institute, organized by Yolanda Whittington and Christine Tripp. Workshops included economic independence for black lesbians, health issues, and violence against lesbians and gay men with self-defense methods incorporated into the session.

On Friday evening Donald Woods, Alan Miller, Dr. Ron Simmons, Rory Buchanan and Bobby Smith read from *Brother to Brother,* the new anthology of writings by black gay men due from Alyson in April.

The conference began in earnest Saturday morning. After a rousing welcome from veteran lesbian and gay rights activist and Los Angeles County Human Rights Commissioner Morris Kight, conference co-chairs Mitchell El-Mahdy and Michelle Walker spoke briefly on the theme, "Come Out! Come Home!", setting the mood for opening speaker, Dr. Marjorie Hill, the city of New York liaison for the Office of Lesbian and Gay Concerns.

Dr. Hill's remarks were candid, humorous, brief and serious, setting a high standard for the many speakers to follow over the next several days. The stylishly-dressed psychologist began her keynote saying, "This society has never been free—that's a slip, but it's true—has never been *safe,* for African-Americans, for lesbians, for gay persons, or for women."

Dr. Hill reminded the conference that "it is not safe in this country to be black, it is not safe to be female or to be lesbian or gay. So why come out?" She recounted two death threats she had received, and that a cinder block had been thrown through the window of her car since her appointment, yet she reaffirmed her commitment to being open.

"My own personal coming out is a journey which began with the acknowledgement of an attraction to another woman. However I continue and still continue to come out as a political person, as a proud African-American, as a female who cherishes and respects my own womanhood and femininity—yes, I am a femme—the more honest I can be about my life, the freer I am."

Participants were overwhelmed by the diversity and sheer volume of workshops at the Conference.

The workshops started with basic leadership skills: raising money, getting non-profit status, public relations; and important matters for the individual: self-esteem, substance abuse, relationships.

That too many things happened simultaneously was evidenced through the brisk tape sales by those who could not be everywhere they wanted to be at once. In particular, the interracial relationships panel and theatrical presentation of *Fierce Love* from San Francisco had audiences spilling out of the doors.

The presenters were a rich and varied cross-section of the African-American lesbian and gay community, without question the most influential and respected experts in their respective fields.

Other than the 50-plus workshops, Saturday and Sunday were filled with events: non-stop videos and films; theater presentations; an art show; and controversies such as the resignation *en masse* of five African-Americans from the board of the National Association of People with AIDS.

The gala banquet, "Children in Paradise" sported a Brazilian *Carnaval* theme complete with dancers. The keynote was delivered by Albany, New York Alderman Keith St. John, the first openly gay black elected official in the United States.

St. John noted, "If we are going to talk about coming out, and coming home, we must also speak about coming together ...to help ourselves and empower ourselves and others who have struggled for social tolerance, social change and full integration in today's society."

Veteran Los Angeles activist Charles Stewart was honored at the banquet with a special Founder's Award.

Stewart, chief deputy to state senator Diane Watson, told the banquet crowd that "there is no sector of African-America today that is better organized, that is more politically astute, that is more dedicated or that is more honorable than the black lesbians and gays of the nation."

The Bayard Rustin Award for political activism was given to Dr. Hill, the Harriet Tubman Award for the organization of the year was presented to the Nia Collective of Oakland, and the Mable Hampton Award to lesbian activists Deborah L. Johnson and Sandra Tignor.

Honored on Sunday were filmmakers Marlon Riggs and Michelle Parkerson with the Black Quill Arts and Letters Award. For her AIDS activism, the Frederick Garnett Award was bestowed upon U.S. Representative Maxine Waters of the 29th Congressional District.

Speaking before the AIDS luncheon, where $1200 was presented to the Minority AIDS Project and $1700 to Rue's House, a residential facility for women and children with AIDS, Rep. Waters had sharp words about the recently released Veteran's Administration study about withholding early intervention with AZT from minorities.

"Let's force this country to do the kind of research that gives us the kinds of conclusions we can be comfortable with," she told the crowd. Waters suggested a pow wow of AIDS activists in Washington to plan strategy. She promised that given her seat on the Veteran's Affairs Committee that the issue will be investigated thoroughly.

Although Oakland was announced as the site of the 1992 Conference with much jubilation, most activists were looking at the more immediate future, at how to utilize information obtained, and how to disseminate it among those who might best benefit by their experiences.

There were as many agendas as there were participants. Workshops spilled out into the halls. Discussions ran far into the night. Impromptu mailing lists sprung up around any number of groups that came together for one reason or another. From partners surviving the loss of lovers to the lesbians and gay men in recovery; from gay writers to people living with HIV, they came together in every conceivable way from small discussion groups sharing in hushed tones to jubilant, ritual-creating, decidedly Afrocentric, celebratory laughter-laden chattering and shouts that rang throughout the hotel.

Mitchell El-Mahdy and Michelle Walker

The principal organizers of the Conference were kept busy throughout the weekend.

An audio-visual rental company alleged that equipment had disappeared from a locked room early in the weekend. The dispute between hotel workers and management resulted in the conference making an unusual plea to all participants to not patronize the restaurants or bars within the hotel as an act of solidarity with the union organizers. The standing ovation at the opening plenary and the show of support throughout the weekend overwhelmed the workers at the Hyatt and provided a unique opportunity for coalition building with progressive non-lesbians and gays.

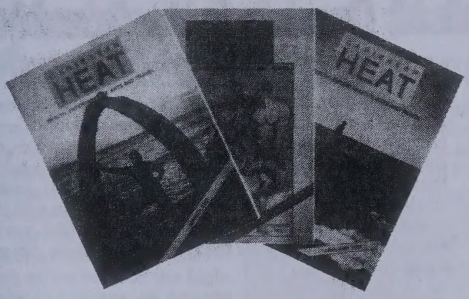
AIDS activist Martial-Rio and Conference co-chair Mitchell El-Mahdy were chairs of the PWA committee, which saw to it that every black lesbian and gay with HIV that they could get to the conference was well taken care of. Ironically, although no medical emergencies occurred during the conference, Martial-Rio was himself hospitalized not long after.

The final controversy arose Monday at the closing roundtable as women voiced their displeasure at the language in Marlon Riggs's award-winning film, *Tongues Untied*. Also discussed were strategies for providing a more substantial subsidy fund to allow more people with varied incomes to attend. For many, the Hyatt was not a conducive environment for the conference. How to find a suitable location with all of the facilities required, and to satisfy differing expectations, was the subject matter of much debate.

BWMT/DC Elects Officers

WASHINGTON—Black and White Men Together/DC recently elected officers for the coming year and added three new members to its steering committee.

New steering committee members are Herman Sivells, Robert Dingle, and Vincent Harris. New officers are Joe Califf, chair; Robert Williams, vice-chair and membership chair; Jim Terrill, treasurer; Herman Sivells, secretary and anniversary weekend chair; Robert Dingle, consciousness raising/rap chair; Vincent Harris, social and AIDS education chair; and Tom Swift, liaison with Anti-Violence Task Force.



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WHEN YOU'RE NOT READING

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Reactions

AAGLCA Holds Cultural Fest at Crossroads Academy

By Erik Anderson

LOS ANGELES—The second annual African-American Gay and Lesbian Cultural Festival ran from Feb. 9-12 at the Crossroads Academy in Los Angeles, filling four full days with dance, theater, poetry, performances and parties.

Among the events were two world premiere performances. *Children of the Night,* defined as a "choreo-poem" by its creator, Stephen Semien, showed the African-American experience with its humor, heartaches, romance and insights. Members of the company included Ursula, Paulette El, Vernell Holmes, Brian Banks, Danny Irby, Deadre Hall-Goodstone, Jeffrey Younger, Parnell Maicano, Darrow Keith, William Wesley, Dee Dee Warwick and Michael Neal.

The other premiere work was *Saxophone Me, Baby* by Angela Counts, a play about a woman coming to terms with being a black lesbian in the black community. Perfomers included Tanya Crutchfield, Deborah Swisher, Stanley Bennett Clay, Carolyn Garland, Lawrence Lowe, Kimberly Purnell and Wynonna Smith.

The importance of truth was a common thread in much of the work presented in the festival—truth to self, discovery of historical truth and truth through self-representation. The performance piece *Tri-sections* by Ayofemi Stowe Folayan celebrates its creator's experience as a black lesbian with disabilities. The performance is divided into three parts: Africa, the journey here and our existence in this country (or wherever the diaspora may have led one), all focusing on racism, homophobia, personal abuses and the harmful aspects of religion. The piece included a musical score composed and performed by Debbie Lawrence.

Another stand out of the first day of the festival was Adele Renault's poetry reading.

The highlight of the festival took place on Feb. 10 with the Black History and Awards Program. The evening was dedicated to those who have made lasting contributions to the black lesbian and gay community as well as to recognize black lesbians and gay men who have impacted the entire world through artistic, political or socially conscious endeavors.

Dr. Sylvia Rhue received the Alliance's prestigious Award for Outstanding Cultural Achievement. The Roger V. Pamplin, Jr. Community Service Award was presented to Kevin Spears, Roger E. Quinney, Xavier Hall, Cleo Manago and Angela Vaughn. The evening was also graced by the talents of singer Tianna Marquez, dancer Broderick Wilson, and writer Stanley Bennett Clay, who presented an original ensemble performance piece.

The Voices of Unity choir who sang the premiere performance of the African American Gay and Lesbian National Anthem composed by Wanda Davis and Darren McCarroll.

During the last two days of the Festival a number of films about the black lesbian and gay experience were shown. The first presentation was *Tiny & Ruby: Hell Divin' Women* by filmmakers Greta Schiller and Andrea Weiss. The film traces the career and relationship of jazz trumpeter Tiny Davis and her lover of over 40 years, drummer Ruby Lucas. Shown with this film was a video by Dr. Rhue, *Women in Love.* In the video six women share their personal experiences as black lesbians, including the trials and victories of fighting bigotry and finding the security and strength to love.

Affirmations and *Tongues Untied* by Marlon Riggs were also presented. In both pieces Riggs taps into the rhythm of the black gay male experience utilizing the poetry of Essex Hemphill and the agile bodies of his cast. Riggs declares in *Tongues Untied* that, "black men loving black men is the revolutionary act."

Although scheduled, *Paris Is Burning* was not able to be shown.

On the last evening of the festival, a panel discussion moderated by Xavier Hall was held with Angela Counts, Ayofemi Stowe Folayan, Sylvia Rhue, Stephen Semian, Gregory Eugene Travis and Ali Wadud. The panelists spoke about their development as well as their goals as artists. All stressed the importance of self-representation and the need to promote representations that are truthful varied and always visible to a public that might wish black gay men and lesbians invisble.

Study Finds Access to AZT Affected by Race

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—A group of Rhode Island researchers says it has confirmed what AIDS activists have suspected—that access to the drug AZT is based on race and gender.

White men who are not illegal drug users are most likely to get the drug, according to the study by researchers at Rhode Island Hospital and Brown University that was published in the *Journal of General Internal Medicine.*

"I don't think it's a conscious bias," said Dr. Tom J. Wachtel, a co-author and director of Rhode Island Hospital's medical primary care unit. "Doctors are making assumptions inappropriately based on stereotypic behavior."

That might include beliefs that drug users are less likely to take the drug properly and that women might become pregnant, Wachtel said. AZT is not supposed to be taken during pregnancy.

AZT is the only approved drug for treating and preventing deadly infections that occur when AIDS breaks down the body's immune system. It is not a cure and patients must be tested periodically to prevent damage to their blood-producing bone marrow cells.

"I think doctors would need to have a very strong reason why they shouldn't offer AZT to slow progression of the disease," said Dr. Michael D. Stein, director of the hospital's AIDS clinic and another co-author of the study.

The researchers interviewed 880 AIDS patients in nine U.S. cities or counties. They found that men were three times more likely than women to be offered AZT and that patients with insurance were twice as likely to be offered the drug, even in states where people without insurance can get the drug free. AZT is very expensive and must be taken for a long time. The results show that "physicians will not prescribe a drug the patient can't pay for," but they also may not have known about the free programs, Wachtel said.

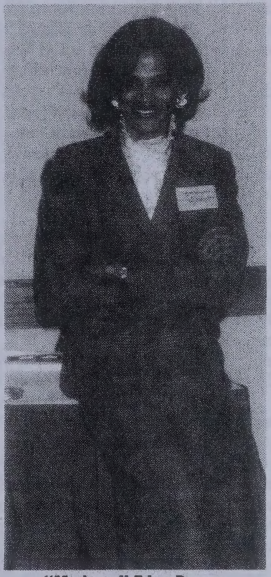
A white patient's chances of getting AZT were 73 percent higher than for non-whites and intravenous drug users were a little less than half as likely to get AZT as were those who did not use drugs.

Anne Marie Silvia of Rhodè Island Projects AIDS said the results were not surprising and that for years AIDS activists had complained about bias in distribution of the drug. "There's an inherent bias in most of us since we've been raised in a world that is primarily sexist and homophobic," she said. Drug users are also looked down upon by society, Silva said. "It shouldn't be happening," she said.

The researchers conducted the interviews in Dallas, Tex.; Ft. Lauderdale and Miami, Fla.; New Orleans, La.; Seattle Wa.; Newark and Jersey City, N.J.; Nassau County, N. Y.; and the small Texas community of Atlanta.

'Madame' Robbed, Slain; Cops Hold Prime Suspect

ATLANTA—Well-known activist "Madame" Edna Brown was found dead in her apartment Jan. 3, her body hidden under a pile of clothes. She had been stabbed in the chest sometime on or shortly after Christmas Day. One shaken friend of Brown called the murder "gruesome."



"Madame" Edna Brown

Brown's car was found the day following the discovery of her body on the highway in Decatur, an Atlanta suburb.

On Jan. 8, Atlanta police arrested Sanders Taylor on suspicion of murder, according to Captain Calvin Wardlaw of homicide. Taylor has been formally indicted with murder, robbery and grand theft auto.

"Madame," as she preferred to be known, was one of the most visible members of Atlanta's black lesbian and gay community. In fact, she was quite possibly the most influential black transsexual activist in the country.

Madame was the chair of the Atlanta Host Committee for the 1990 Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference. She was on the board of directors of the African-American Lesbian and Gay Alliance, was a forthright and effective advocate on behalf of the inclusivity of transvestites and crossdressers in the black lesbian and gay movement. During the 1990 conference, she presented a workshop she entitled "Grand and Proud," an Afrocentric history of crossdressing that included positive images and contributions often ignored or overlooked.

Up front and proud of being a transvestite for 17 years, Madame was loved throughout the Atlanta community, a veritable fixture at Loretta's where she performed. She was a skillful mediator, often pulling meetings back on track when squabbles would lead the board astray.

"He finds friends who makes himself friendly," Madame was quoted as saying.

There has been speculation that Taylor's attorney would attempt to use the controversial "homosexual panic" defense, in which the defendant claims that fear of sexual assault is reason enough to inflict multiple mortal stab wounds on a possible predator. The practice of using the "homosexual panic" defense is considered to be repugnant among reputable district attorneys and lawyers.

Memorial Services were held at Loretta's on Jan. 7, and at the EMT Congregational Church on Jan. 9.

"There was such an outcry after the murder," stated Patrick Bell of the AAGLCA, the HRCF [Human Rights Campaign Fund] and all...very vocal with the case."

In a statement issued after Taylor's arrest, AAGLCA mourned "the tragic death of Madame Edna Elizabeth Brown. AAGLCA appreciates the sympathy and outcries for justice expressed by many gay and lesbian organizations in Atlanta and from across the country."

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AIDS Professionals Find Fault with VA Study that Claims AZT Less Effective for HIV+ Blacks, Latinos

ROCKVILLE, Md.—In a surprise announcement, results of a Department of Veterans Affairs study were released Feb. 14 suggesting that blacks and Latinos infected with the AIDS virus may not benefit to the same extent as whites from early use of the antiviral drug AZT. But the unpublished study, and its methodology and the manner in which the results were released were immediately called into question by AIDS professionals from coast to coast.

California Congresswoman Maxine Waters branded the study "suspicious" and called for further research.

The results from the study of 338 patients conducted at seven sites across the nation and presented to the Food and Drug Administration's antiviral drugs advisory committee, indicated that early use of AZT helped whites patients, but appeared neutral or favoring late AZT treatment in minority patients. The study was begun in 1987 and concluded last month.

Although the committee declined to recommend a change in current medical thinking, which calls for early AZT therapy in patients who are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus and whose immune systems show specific signs of damage, AIDS professionals were nevertheless concerned the effect the annoucement might have on the minority HIV positive community.

"We cannot afford to give black people any more excuses not to get tested, into early intervention modes and yes, into clinical trials," said Reggie Williams, executive director of the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention, in an address to members attending an AIDS institute in Los Angeles. "Nor can we afford to give those in government research and policymaking positions a reason to further marginalize us from our fair share of whatever is out there that may prolong life with HIV."

Paul Kawata, executive director of the National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC), expressed similar concern. "We must not send people of color with HIV infection underground," he said. "This study has the potential to take away hope for HIV-infected minorities. It is much too early to draw any definitive conclusions."

Belinda Rochelle, a lesbian and gay health lobbyist with the Washington-based National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), who attended the meeting likewise said, "This may send a dangeous message of hopelessness to communities that are just beginning to focus on prevention and early intervention. We believe the data in this study is inconclusive and points out the need for more detailed reports on AIDS and minorities."

Not only did the antiviral drugs committee not recommend a change, but department officials themselves urged caution in interpreting the findings, VA CSP No. 298, saying that further studies are needed to determine whether the racial distinctions are valid and to understand why they occurred.

A spokeswoman for the VA in Washington, Linda Stalvey, said that the study should be considered "preliminary" and emphasized that findings involving differences in response to AZT among blacks and Hispanics was not a primary emphasis of the research, which was led by Dr. John Hamilton of the VA Medical Center and Duke University in Durham, N.C. Hamilton could not be reached for comment.

A great deal more study is needed to confirm any racial difference in response to AZT, the only approved AIDS drug, said Brad Stone, an FDA spokesman. Overall, Stone said, the FDA's antiviral drug advisory committee found that AZT is "useful" at slowing the progression from infection with the AIDS virus to full-blown AIDS. This confirms a picture that scientists have been developing for years.

Casting doubt on the effectiveness of the only federally-approved treatment for fighting AIDS, and the only anti-HIV drug widely available, then calling that research preliminary and not to be acted upon has led some AIDS professionals to suggest that the VA might have a hidden agenda.

"I don't know what's going on," said Maxine Waters to a gathering of AIDS professionals Feb. 17, "but when I look at treatment that is being denied to some folks based on their inability to pay and where they live and their circumstance, I'm real suspicious when they say, 'Well, you know, that's not for you anyway. You don't react too well to that.' I'm real suspicious."

Saying that "the Veterans Administration has never been in the forefront of any legitimate research," Waters went on. "The president is clear about who he is, what he cares about, and he's carrying out his agenda, and we have to be clear about what we care about...We can't be intimidated into silence," she said.

The Department of Veterans Affairs study compared early use of AZT with later therapy in patients who had initial symptoms of disease but who had not yet reached the stage of fully developed AIDS.

Patients selected for the study were HIV positive, with a T-cell count between 200 and 500, and various indicators of what is generally considered AIDS-Related Complex (ARC). The VA's report indicates that 73 percent of the men were gay, though it fails to break down the sample racially. Endpoints for the study were a diagnosis of full-blown AIDS or death. Approximately half the patients were given 1500 mg. of AZT daily from the start of the study. The other half were given a placebo until their T-cell count dropped below 200, at which point they were given AZT. VA researchers say their comparison of the "early" and "late" groups "is neutral or in favor of the late AZT in the minority population."

Overall, 21 percent of the patients in the early treatment group developed AIDS or died, contrasted with 26 percent in the later treatment group, indicating that early therapy is helpful in slowing the progression of the disease.

Among whites, 20 percent of patients in early treatment developed AIDS or died, contrasted with 28 percent in the later treatment group, mirroring the overall findings. Among minorities, however, early and late treatment produced similar results, suggesting that minorities received less benefit from treatment at an early stage. In the minority group, which included blacks and Latinos, 22 percent in early treatment developed AIDS or died, compared to 22 percent of those receiving later treatment.

The NGLTF summarized objections to the research suggesting that "a large percentage of the participants in the study were IV drug users; only 338 people were enrolled, two-thirds white and one-third black and Hispanic; by combining blacks and Hispanics together, ethnic-specific conclusions are rendered inaccurate; a large number of deaths of participants—such as heart attacks, suicide and others—were not CDC-defined AIDS deaths; and participants received 1500 mg. of AZT, instead of the current average dosage of 750 mg., pointing out the need for another study with updated parameters."

In addition, said Rochelle, the study gives an incomplete picture because it does not address the lack of access of many people of color and the poor to proper health care, nutrition,

insurance, preventative treatment and education.

Some AIDS researchers suggested that the study methodology was flawed because it was not intended to examine racial differences and because it was changed several times after the research had begun.

"All post hoc analyses are inherently unreliable," said Martin Delaney, executive director of Project Inform, referring to the fact that VA researchers had not set out to determine responses to AZT by race. "This study only hints at a problem. Further critical analyses are needed, as well as additional studies. The study highlights the problems of poor recruitment of minority patients" for such research.

Rochelle concurs. "The truth is, minorities and women are still grossly under-represented in AIDS trials, funding and education. There is a serious need for more information on the affect of HIV on minorities," she said.

And in a startling admission, the VA acknowledged that the minority patients who participated in the study had been somewhat less rigorous than the whites in taking the drug.

Dr. Paul Volberding a professor of medicine at UC San Francisco and director of the AIDS program at San Francisco General Hospital who conducted one of two major federally sponsored studies on early use of AZT, said the VA study "just doesn't fit with anything else we've seen," noting that his study did not indicate that early AZT use was more effective among whites.

"If there had been a striking lack of benefit in minorities, we should have seen something—and didn't," he said. Even so, he said, "you can't ignore a result like this."

Volberding said, however, that he was concerned about the potential impact of the findings on the treatment of HIV-infected minority patients. "My own strong bias is that we shouldn't change anything based on this," he said.

BLK BOARD

APRIL 20, 1991

Marlon Riggs and Luz Maria Umpierre will keynote the second annual Bayard Rustin Community Breakfast sponsored by the AIDS Action Committee in collaboration with the Latino Health Network and Multicultural AIDS Coalition. Villa Victoria Cultural Center, 85 W. Newton St., Boston, Mass. 11 a.m. $5. 617-437-6200, ext. 229.

MAY 4, 1991

Retreat sponsored by Adodi New York. Sixteen workshops for black men of all ages, economic backgrounds and interests. Union Theological Seminary, 116th St and Broadway, New York. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. $25 or less. 718-398-3036 or 718-237-0116.

JUNE 23, 1991

"Convention '91: Living, Loving and Working Together," the 1991 convention of the National Association of Black and White Men Together. Hotel St. Regis, Detroit, Mich. June 23-30. Box 248831, Detroit, Mich. 48224.

NOVEMBER 8, 1991

People of Color Organizing Institute sponsored by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. NGLTF, 1734 14th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009, 202-332-6483.

NOVEMBER 9, 1991

Creating Change sponsored by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Speakers include Reggie Williams and Jewelle Gomez. Nov. 9-12. NGLTF, 1734 14th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009, 202-332-6483.

NOVEMBER 22, 1991

Fourth annual Gathering sponsored by the Nia Collective. Marin Headlands, Sausalito, Calif. Nov. 22-24. Box 20835, Oakland, Calif. 94620.

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Of course, the fight against AIDS isn't only between the disease and those who have it.

It's everyone's problem.

That's why we promote public awareness. Try to educate those who feel they don't need it. And demand that the Government of the United States approach AIDS just as it does every other major disease.

At AIDS Project Los Angeles, people discover courage and strength they didn't know they had. But before we can help, they have to do one simple thing.

Call 213-962-1600 and talk to someone who cares.

Having AIDS can be a frightening experience, which is all the more reason it shouldn't be a lonely experience.

AIDS PROJECT LOS ANGELES

POCAAN Adds Peer Educators, Expands 1991 Budget

By Tripp Hunter

SEATTLE—People of Color Against AIDS Network (POCAAN) received a grant from King County Health Department to fund new staff positions that will increase its outreach into communities of gay and bisexual men of color.

The grant totalling $28,000 will allow for four peer educators (two African-American, one Native-American, one Asian-American) to be hired on a part-time basis for one year to do one-on-one outreach within their respective communities. The staff addition reflects growth in POCAAN's gay and bisexual men of color outreach program, which began one year ago under another grant from the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta.

In response to the increasingly higher numbers of people of color being affected by HIV, POCAAN is growing in many other ways as well, evolvoing into an organization that provides or assists with AIDS-related support services. Individuals needing such services were previously referred to Northwest AIDS Foundation.

Since its beginning four years ago with a handful of staff members and a budget of $20,000, POCAAN has concentrated principally on AIDS education and preventiion. As it branches into service programs, POCAAN is now operating under an approved budget for 1991 of $1.2 million with 25 paid full- or part-time staff members.

Its work in Seattle and King County continues with two offices, one in the vicinity of the city's central and international districts, the other in the Rainier Valley neighborhood. Not only meeting the needs of Seattle residents, POCAAN also has workers in Tacoma and Yakima, Washington.

POCAAN's targeted population has always been people of color, particularly women and children, intravenous drug users and, as of last year, gay and bisexual men of color. As citizens at risk of HIV infection, people of color were not immediately captured through the work of other AIDS-related organizations in the area due to those organizations' failure to understand differences in behavior and perception between white and ethnic members of society.

Executive Director P. Catlin Fullwood cites not only higher numbers but also the need to insure access to the existing AIDS services as the force that fuels POCAAN's growth.

New programs include POCAAN liasons with AIDS oranizations that don't have established means for streamlining people of color into their programs. These include AIDS clinical trials units, family services programs and the city's HIV early intervention program. A staff member to work with the incarcerated population has been added, the development of a doctors-of-color referral program is underway, and a sex-for-drugs study program has begun with intervention to start soon.

This summer will bring the return of last year's successful youth program under which six or more teenagers work as peer educators taking AIDS and safe sex information to their neighborhoods.

Ray Dumas, outreach coordinator for the gay and bisexual men-of-color program, stated that one of his objectives is to change attitudes among men with ethnic backgrounds about sexual behavior. (The four peer educators joining POCAAN through the new grant will work under his tutelage.)

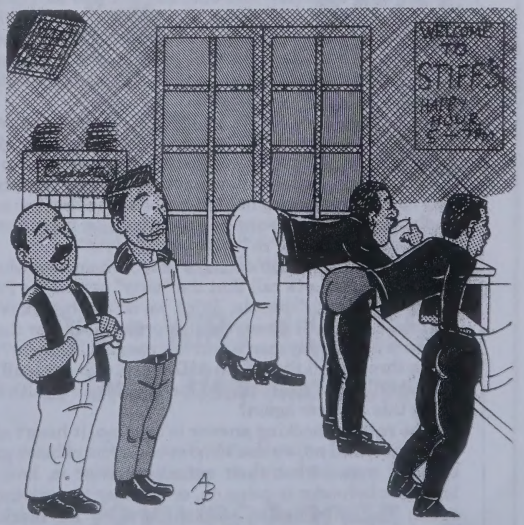
Not only lack of information but denial of one's sexuality can lead to risky behavior and HIV infection, according to Dumas. He says his task is to convince men to face the reality of AIDS, to trust that POCAAN is there to help, and that it is safe and prudent to seek that help.

Besides the direct, one-on-one outreach Dumas has personally conducted over the last year, he and his committee of volunteers, with the help of many businesses in the city, have produced several special events designed to provide opportunities for men of color to hear the AIDS-prevention message in a socially enjoyable environment.

Last spring POCAAN produced an afternoon fashion show and tea dance, and in the fall, the group sponsored a vogueing competition and lip-sync contest. In observance of Black History Month, a free screening of the Marlon Riggs film, *Tongues Untied* was held this past February in cooperation with Men of All Cultures and Colors Together, Northwest AIDS Foundation, Queer Students Organization of Seattle Central Community College, Seattle Bisexual Men's Union and Seattle Commission for Lesbians and Gays. The event was followed by a panel discussion of issues important to gay and bisexual African-American men, with lively participation by the audience. It provided an opportunity for black men in Seattle to discuss sexuality, homophobia and racism openly. Inspiration was high enough that the formation of a black gay men's networking and support group may soon develop.

Dumas is optimistic about plans for the programs he has planned for the upcoming year. The fashion show and tea dance will be repeated later this spring. A symposium on AIDS issues relevant to African-American gays, with participation by national political figures, is also on the boards.

Although POCAAN has managed its growth so far, it faces new challenges in the not-too-distant future. According to Fullwood, Tacoma has the highest rate of new HIV-infection among African-Americans in Washington state. Latinos in the agricultural regions of eastern Washington are in need of more of POCAAN's services. Cultural sensitivity toward peopole of color in AIDS matters is always a concern, especially when dealing with institutions. And everywhere POCAAN administers, the fight to eliminate the stigma associated with AIDS by people in ethnic communities who are not infected continues. But as their T-shirt slogan states, "Until there's a cure, there's POCAAN."



"I considered calling the manufacturer to have them bring a bar that's the correct height, but I changed my mind when business picked up with this one."

Study Tracks Risk Behavior Shifts Among Black Men

By Keith Clark

SAN FRANCISCO—Eight years into the AIDS epidemic, the African-American Men's Health Project is now underway to survey young, black gay and bisexual men about their awareness of AIDS as well as their sexual attitudes, beliefs and risk behaviors.

While there are a handful of other research projects aimed at black gay and bisexual men, unlike these other efforts the African-American Men's Health Project is also attempting to scientifically determine what sorts of targeted education programs for this population group work. Ultimately the goal of the Project is to establish a proven model that community-based groups can use as an effective educational intervention tool to change high-risk behavior.

This is, after a decade of death in our community, the first scientific attempt to help create a model intervention program geared specifically to black gay and bisexual men that can be used elsewhere to change their high-risk behaviors.

Other studies on different aspects of AIDS are going on at the Howard Brown Memorial Clinic in conjunction with Northwestern University's School of Medicine, at Johns Hopkins University, at the University of Pittsburgh and at the Black Community AIDS Research and Education Project in conjunction with the University of California, Los Angeles.

How the African-American Men's Health Project study works is simple enough. Project assistant Lee Middleton explained that it is in the process of conducting anonymous personal interviews with black gay and bisexual men between the ages of 18 and 39 in San Francisco and Alameda County in the East Bay. The men are asked about their general medical history, about their drug and alcohol use, and their current sexual behavior during a one-hour interview.

The men are assigned randomly to a one-session or three-session risk reduction workshop, or to no workshop at all. Six, 12 and 18 months later the Project interviews the men again. The participants get a $15 gratuity from the Project for the first interview and $20, $25 and $30 for the second, third and fourth interviews. The Project takes careful precautions to insure that each man's identity is anonymous and that information about the participants is kept private.

Why the study is being done at all this far into the epidemic is not so easy to explain.

In the simplest terms, Dr. John L. Peterson, director of the Project, explained, "The goals of the research project are several things. First is to determine the extent to which black gay and bisexual men in San Francisco and the East Bay Area are engaging in high-risk sexual behavior; and secondly, what attitudes and beliefs these men hold that might affect their engaging in high-risk behavior."

In other words, who's doing what to whom, and what they think about it. Let's call that the "nitty" part of the Project's goals. The "gritty" part is, didn't we do all this six or seven years ago when all those research projects all over the country were asking gay men about their sexual behavior? Didn't we go through all that "Stop AIDS" and safe-sex stuff a long time ago? Why is the African-American Men's Health Project doing this all over again?

The rather shocking answer is that, no, it hasn't already been done, and no, we don't know—in terms of black gay and bisexual men—what their sexual behavior is, how much high-risk behavior is going on, or whether the existing education and information workshops *work* for black men. "Black men were not included in the earlier studies," Dr. Peterson said, "and since there were few blacks in those studies, we don't have the information about whether [education workshops] have worked with those men. And because there's been so limited an amount of information targeted to these populations, we don't have data on black men to determine whether they've changed their behavior or not. So we can only speculate whether the same approaches are applicable to black gay and bisexual men. We need to know whether that's the case or not.

"The epidemic began, the epidemic raged on, but we were in a time machine in terms of dealing with it. With the overwhelming numbers of white gay men who were being infected and diagnosed, the emphasis was placed on them. So, to the detriment of black and other non-white men, very little was being done either in research or in education."

It's been an assumption by many people for years now that the educational information, the safe-sex workshops, the "Stop AIDS" campaigns were effective among black men. But all the research done five to six years ago was based primarily—almost exclusively—on the attitudes and behavior of white gay men.

And those assumptions are what the African-American Men's Health Project's study will prove, disprove or modify, based on the first hard, behavioral research data about the effectiveness of educational interventions specifically for black gay and bisexual men.

Gathering data, of course, isn't the only thing the Project hopes to accomplish.

In the process of determining what's going on among gay and bisexual black men in the Bay Area, the Project's workshops themselves will be encouraging changes in some of the men's high-risk behavior. In the process of finding out exactly what works, some lives may be saved. This alone makes the Project worthwhile.

But in the longer run, the information the Project is able to gather will build an intervention model that can be transplanted and used effectively elsewhere around the country where HIV-infection rates among gay and bisexual black men are becoming a significant problem.

"We hope it will offer an enormous contribution to the Bay Area, and for a model that can be adapted and used for other black gay and bisexual men in the state." Dr. Peterson said, "We even have people who are contacting us now from Florida...interested in doing the same thing there in the Miami-West Palm Beach area where they have a large percentage of gay and bisexual black men being diagnosed with AIDS, suggesting there are a large number at risk." Why all this is being done now, in 1990, instead of years ago is, of course, a dicey issue.

"Clearly my immediate response would be that black men were neglected when the studies were being conducted with white men. That's a fact," says Dr. Peterson. "What's more difficult to say is why that was the case. There are any number of reasons people could offer. My concern is to begin to rectify the situation."

The African-American Men's Health Project can be reached at the University of California, San Francisco, Center for AIDS Prevention Studies. The telephone number is 415-597-9137.

New POC Group Forms

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico—Colectivo de Lesbianas Feministas has been selected to host the Third Lesbian Feminist Latin American and Caribbean Conference slated for 1992. CLF, a new lesbian-feminist collective, published the first issue of its newsletter, *Desde El Ambiente* (From the Community), in November 1990. The group's address is CLF, Apartado 1003, Estacion Viejo San Juan, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

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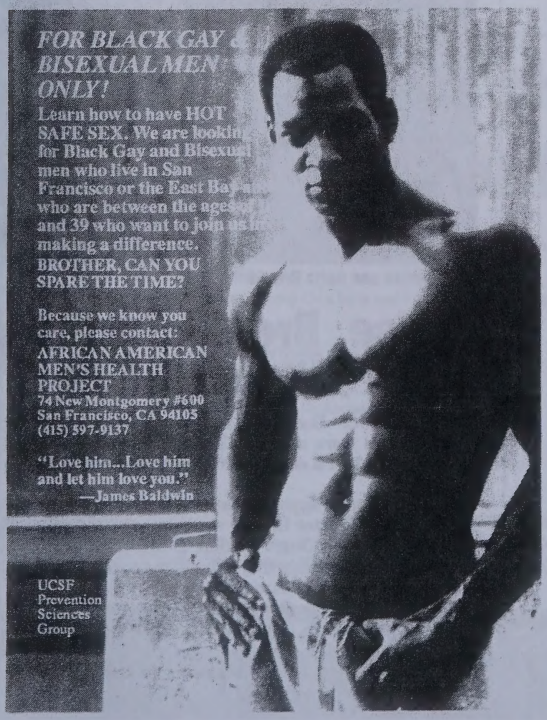
—James Baldwin



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The workshop is open to all, male and female, gay and non-gay.

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GMHC
GAY MEN'S HEALTH CRISIS

The Lesbian and Gay Rights Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union presents its April General Meeting:

IS IT TIME FOR A CIVILIAN POLICE REVIEW BOARD?

Panelists include:

* Ramona Ripston, ACLU executive director
* Charles Stewart, chief deputy to Senator Diane Watson
* Sandra Domingue, vice chair of the Gay and Lesbian Police Advisory Task Force
* Joe Vanderhorst, Long Beach ACLU activist

The meeting will be held Thursday, April 25, at 7 p.m., at the Highland Grounds Coffee Shop, 742 N. Highland, 1/2 block north of Melrose.

Admission is free.

For more information, call 213/385-5585.

ACT-UP/Portland Quits

PORTLAND—Internal strife changed the political map of Portland, Ore. as a small group of men within ACT-UP/Portland brought about its demise. A number of members left the organization and formed a new ACT-UP/Inc.

An affinity group of white gay men with HIV, Vanguard, had made racist and sexist threats against women in ACT-UP, to the point that one woman went to the Portland Police to file charges of intimidation and harassment.

On Jan. 21, the members of ACT-UP Portland voted to disband after a chaotic month of threats and verbal attacks face to face and over the telephone. Part of the conflict in the two-year-old chapter was a strain in relations between HIV positive and HIV negative members, and dilution of their energies into non-AIDS subjects.

The old ACT-UP Board of Directors was all HIV negative; the new ACT-UP Board is all men.

In dissolving the old chapter, the members stated they were "...committed to continuing work on the issues surrounding the AIDS crisis, true to their values that understand homophobia, sexism and racism as the root causes of government inattention to the AIDS crisis and lack of sufficient AIDS education, prevention, care and treatment."

Scott Cruise and Anita Brooks

Cruise, Brooks Take San Diego XIX Court Titles

SAN DIEGO—Bodybuilder Scott Cruise and entertainer Anita Brooks were crowned Mr. and Miss Gay Black San Diego for 1991 at a competition held March 3 at the Brass Rail.

Impersonator Pepper Price and San Diego Mr. Leather 1990 Taurus Webster hosted the pageant held annually by the XIX Imperial Court of San Diego. This year's event marked the return after five years of the contest for members of San Diego's African-American gay community.

Candidates for Mr. Gay Black San Diego appeared in casual wear and then in swimwear. Female impersonator candidates for the Miss Gay Black San Diego title each presented a four-minute entertainment routine, and then appeared in evening gowns.

Stonewall Democratic Club Endorsements for April 9, 1991 Consolidated Elections

Los Angeles City Council
District # 2: No Endorsement**
District # 4: John Ferraro (incumbent)
District # 6: Ruth Galanter (incumbent)
District # 8: Mark Ridley-Thomas
District # 9: Rita Walters
District #10: Nate Holden (incumbent)
District #12: Julie Korenstein***
District #14: Richard Alatorre (incumbent)

Board of Education
Office #1: Sterling Delone
Office #2: Jeff Horton*
Office #5: Leticia Quezada (incumbent)
Office #7: Warren Furutani (incumbent)

Los Angeles Community College Board
Office #1: Wallace Knox (incumbent)
Office #3: No Endorsement**
Office #5: Patrick McGuire*
Office #7: David Lopez-Lee (incumbent)

***Especially important races. These are well-qualified, openly GAY candidates.**
****We found none of the Democrats running in these races more acceptable to our community than the incumbents.**
*****As a school board member, Ms. Korenstein was extremely supportive of Project 10, the lesbian/gay adolescent counseling program started at Fairfax High School by Dr. Virginia Uribe.

Stonewall Democratic Club Membership Application

Please check the appropriate categories:

☐ New Membership
☐ Renewal Membership
☐ Donation $_____

☐ $10.00 Student, Senior, Low Income
☐ $25.00 General Membership
☐ $50.00 Stonewaller
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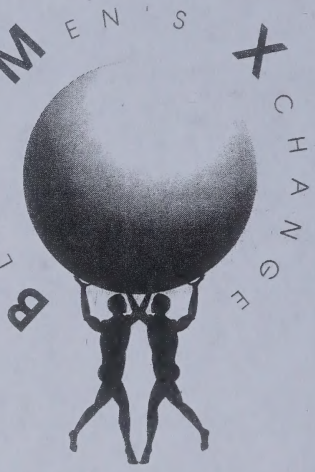

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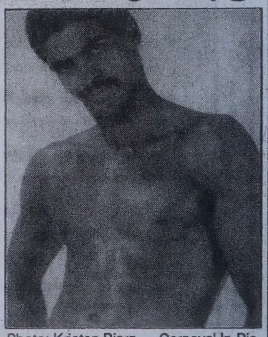

Photo: Kristen Bjorn — Carnaval In Rio

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Cops Raid Lesbian Party; Harass Women of Color

LOS ANGELES—An all-women party at the world renowned Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions, in the downtown arts district was raided by Los Angeles vice in plain clothes and uniformed police officers.

In a city still reeling from the videotaped beating of Rodney King by uniformed police officers, many victims and witnesses of police brutality are only now feeling safe enough to come forward with their stories. The Feb. 22 incident at LACE occurred less than two weeks before the King beating.

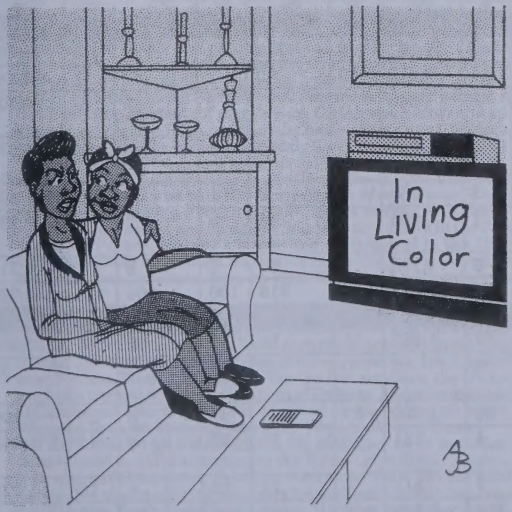
According to event organizer Bryn Austin, police went over to women of color, especially those not dressed according to traditional gender-specific or appropriate roles, and chose them for harassment.

Four women were handcuffed and five were given citations and will have to appear in court for arraignment to face criminal charges on April 5. They were charged with running a dance hall and selling alcohol without permits. Three women were made to sit in the back of a police car with their arms cuffed behind their backs for approximately an hour.

Officers reportedly frisked the crotch of one woman twice and asked her if she was a man or a woman. Four of the five women charged were women of color, and only one of the women arrested was actually an organizer of the event.

During the raid, officers were reportedly verbally and physically abusive. Officers confiscated the guest list and proceeds of the benefit and forced attendees to leave the building. The party was a benefit for *Scream Box*, a small lesbian literary and arts magazine in Los Angeles.

LACE is an organization run by and for artists, with a prestigious gallery, performance space, video theater and a variety of other programs. It has a long history of being supportive of lesbian and gay art and artists. Attendance and donations to LACE have fallen off considerably since this raid.



"I don't know which pisses me off more. The homophobia of the 'Men on..' stereotypes, or the fact that because of lesbian invisibility there aren't any lesbian stereotypes for me to get pissed off about."

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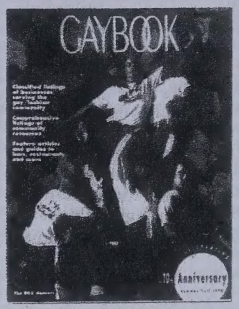

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Mayor Denounces Gay Conference Set for His City

By Rex Wockner

GUADALAJARA, Mexico—The mayor of Guadalajara, the nation's second-largest city, has denounced the 13th annual Conference of the International Lesbian and Gay Association, scheduled here June 30-July 6.

"It is an event we repudiate completely," Gabriel Covarrubias Ibarra told the daily newspaper *Metropoli* in late February. "We are never going to...offer them even the smallest amount of support or backing, given that this meeting contravenes public morals." Covarrubias Ibarra said he has letters from business, social, civic and religious leaders protesting "against the possible celebration in Guadalajara of an event of this nature."

But the mayor added that local lesbian and gay organizations have a right to host the conference and he said, "There will not be aggression against the [delegates]."

"But neither will we permit aggression [by them] against the [general] community," Covarrubias Ibarra said. If the delegates stage any kind of public march, the mayor said, "they will be impeded by the municipal authorities to make manifest that Tapitian society is very conservative and doesn't recognize all this that is unnatural."

A never-enforced Mexican law reportedly forbids foreigners from joining political street demonstrations. Tapitians are the residents of Guadalajara.

Meanwhile, the president of the private Moral, Civic and Material Association of Guadalajara, Francisco Cortés Vargas, has announced a march against the conference. There's only one problem: Mexican ILGA organizers have misled the press into believing the conference will be in May.

The Guadalajara chapter of the Social Union of Mexican Business Leaders (USEM), for its part, is urging the owners of hotels and convention centers "to prevent this event from being held in our city."

"Homosexuality goes against universal laws," USEM president Elias González Robles told reporters. "We have never seen a dog or cat with these type of deviations."

González added that promotion of homosexuality endangers the human race, that the conference will encourage youth to turn homosexual, and that the gathering will severely damage Mexico's international image. He exhorted youth "not to get carried away by certain fashions. It is necessary to think a little and see that these types of acts go against the natural order and the dignity of the person," González Robles said.

Reached by telephone, conference organizer Jorge Romero Mendoza of the Homosexual Pride Liberation Group (GOHL), said delegates should not be alarmed by homophobic news articles or the mayor's ranting and raving.

"*Metropoli* is an ultra-right-wing newspaper," Romero Mendoza said. "This is only one of about ten hysterical articles that have appeared there. We were expecting it. The bottom line is that the authorities know we have the legal right to stage the ILGA conference. It is our constitutional right."

Romero Mendoza said GOHL member Pedro Preciado was in Mexico City preparing for a meeting with Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari who, he said, "supports the conference." Romero Mendoza emphasized that the authorities will never enforce the law prohibiting foreigners from participating in demonstrations.

CDC January Statistics on AIDS Cases in U.S.

	White (not Latino)		Black (not Latino)		Latino		Asian/Pacific Islander		American Indian/ Alaskan Native		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
MALE												
Gay and bisexual contact	68,126	80	16,256	44	10,231	46	744	81	126	63	95,687	66
Straight IV drug use	5,449	6	12,959	35	8,619	39	30	3	22	11	27,147	19
Gay and bisexual contact, and IV drug use	6,212	7	2,896	8	1,548	7	21	2	32	16	10,726	7
Hemophilia and coagulation disorder	1,144	1	93	0	110	0	17	2	8	4	1,376	1
Straight contact	589	1	2,488	7	358	2	9	1	2	1	3,450	2
Receipt of blood transfusion, blood components or tissue	1,688	2	348	1	205	1	45	5	2	1	2,294	2
Other and undetermined	1,834	2	1,670	5	1,108	5	50	5	8	4	4,714	3
Male subtotal	85,042	100	36,710	100	22,179	100	916	100	200	100	145,394	100
FEMALE												
IV drug use	1,690	40	4,695	57	1,652	51	14	17	16	50	8,082	51
Hemophilia and coagulation disorder	27	1	6	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	35	0
Straight contact	1,265	30	2,669	32	1,220	37	28	34	8	25	5,206	33
Receipt of blood transfusion, blood components or tissue	930	22	300	4	181	6	26	32	4	13	1,443	9
Other and undetermined	301	7	593	7	211	6	14	17	4	13	1,128	7
Female subtotal	4,213	100	8,263	100	3,266	100	82	100	32	100	15,894	100
Total	89,255		44,973		25,445		998		232		161,288	

Source: "Adult/Adolescent AIDS Cases by Sex, Exposure Category and Race/Ethnicity Reported through January 1991, United States," U.S. Centers for Disease Control. HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, February 1991

BLK VEIL

Obituaries are published free of charge. They are accepted from funeral directors, families, lovers, friends and AIDS service organizations. Include your name, address and phone number for our records. We prefer to write the notice ourselves from the details you provide. If known, include the deceased's principal city of residence, correct legal name, any nicknames or pseudonyms by which they were known in the community, dates of birth and death as well as locations of birth and death. In addition, include all relevant biographical and professional data in both early and later life. Don't assume any detail or accomplishment is too small to include, Although, we edit notices to not more than seven lines, it is better to have too much information than too little. We can provide information gathering forms on request. Memorial display advertising is accepted at prevailing advertising rates.

ORTEZ ALDERSON died in Chicago on Dec. 21 at age 38. A leader of Third World Revolutionaries, an anti-draft, anti-war gay activist, Alderson acted in Chicago throughout the 70s and in New York after moving there in 1981. He also acted in *Hooked for Life*, and did AIDS-related work in London. He participated in the 1987 March on Washington and the sit-in at the Supreme Court. In 1989, he moved back to Chicago with his life partner, Arthur Gursch, and helped organize the People of Color AIDS Conference.

KUJI CHAAULIA as he was known, died on March 11 in Inglewood. Born Leonard Peter Flot, Jr. on June 26, 1950 in Norfolk, Va., he grew up in New Orleans and Los Angeles, where he received an M.A. from CSULA in 1982. Kuji taught art at the L.A. Cultural Center, Watts Towers Center and the William Grant Still Center, where he was a boardmember. He is survived by his parents Leonard, Sr. and Julia, his children Leonard III, LeLeon, LeJon, La-Shirelle, his brother David and sisters Freida and Gloria.

ALAN JEROME CLARK, born Jan. 4, 1955 in Springfield, Mass., died Feb. 1 according to the *Bay Area Reporter*. For the past 11 years, he worked as a claims adjuster for Industrial Indemnity Insurance Company. Clark, who had a fondness for camping, horseback riding, motorcycles, chicken, pizza, Chinese food, Hostess cupcakes and milk, had lived in San Francisco since 1979.

ERIC "RIC" STANLEY CLAY, a retired auto mechanic and instructor, died of kidney failure Dec. 31 in Washington, D.C. according to the *Washington Blade*. He was 37. Born in Indianapolis, Ind., Clay served in the U.S. Army in Germany for three years, and lived in Indianapolis and San Francisco before moving to Washington. He taught auto mechanics at the National Business School and then worked as the fleet mechanic at Erol's Video. Clay is survived by his lover, Bob Medford and other relatives.

JAMES M. COTTON died of complications related to AIDS Jan. 17 according to the *Bay Area Reporter*. The Houston, Tex. native served as a lieutenant in Vietnam before beginning a 15-year career with the United States Postal Service as a letter carrier. A San Francisco resident for many years, Cotton was a biker and adventurous traveler. In recent years he had explored much of Mexico. He is survived by his lover of nearly four years, Ken Orton Williams; his father, Paul; and by other relatives.

DALE M. DIGGS, a bartender at the Wreck Room, died Jan. 14 of complications related to AIDS according to *Mom...Guess What!* Born Feb. 10, 1949 in Fort Ord, Calif., Diggs worked with Sacramento's Summerfest and on a float that took top honors in the San Francisco Parade. He was a singer and participated in the 1981 Valley Knights Christmas Celebration Bash. Diggs is survived by his lover, Don, in whose arms he died. The two lived together in Monterey.

PHILLIP FLEMING JR., 44, an accountant and business teacher, was one of 34 people who died in an accident Feb. 8 when a USAir jetliner slammed into a SkyWest Airlines plane and burst into flames. Fleming, the oldest of nine children, moved to Los Angeles from Nachez, Miss. 22 years ago. For the last six years, the UCLA graduate worked for the Department of Defense. A former member of Gentlemen Concerned, he is survived by his wife of 20 years, Johnetta Dockins Fleming, and their 17-year-old son, Omari.

JEFFREY THOMAS FRANKLIN, 23, died Dec. 28 of complications related to AIDS according to the *Washington Blade*. A salesman and AIDS educator, Franklin worked for Dale Denton Real Estate. He also conducted seminars for adolescents with the Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League. He was a volunteer speaker for Health Education Resource Organization, LifeLink, Northern Virginia AIDS Ministry and Whitman-Walker. Franklin is survived by his companion, Galan Meyer, and by other relatives.

CHARLES EDWIN GARNER died of HIV related complications March 8 according to the *Washington Blade*. Born in Philadelphia, Garner moved to Washington, D.C. after he received an honorable discharge from the Army in 1967. He became the first black hairstylist in Georgetown in 1976, and donated his time to many causes, including the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Fashion Show. He is survived by his lover, Ronnie Foster, his parents, Wallace and Vivilores; and by other relatives.

ELLIS B. HAIZLIP, a leading producer and mentor of black artists, died Jan. 25 of lung cancer. He was 61. A Howard University graduate, Haizlip produced a number of plays including *Dark of the Moon, Black New World, The Amen Corner* and *Black Nativity*. In 1972 and 1973, with Lincoln Center, he produced "Soul at the Center," a 12-day festival of black expression. Haizlip was executive producer of the television program, *Soul*, which ran in New York from 1967 to 1973. He is survived by his sister and other relatives.

DARRYL EDWARD HEARD, who was born Dec. 8, 1959, died March 10 in San Francisco from complications associated with AIDS according to the *Bay Area Reporter*. Once an Eagle scout, Heard became a San Francisco paramedic, while also pursuing a career as a disc jockey. The Gay Community Awards named him disc jockey of the year '86-'87. He appeared in Men Behind Bars '88 and '90 and was involved in Gay Games '90, though unable to compete. He is survived by his parents, sister and godmother.

HENRY LEWIS LAMPLEY, born Sept. 10, 1941 in Inverness, Miss., died Feb. 14 in Los Angeles. Lampley was a 24-year employee of Angeles Vista Pet Medical Center. He was also a member of Unity Church. He is survived by his mother, Essie Lampley; sisters, Artie, Callie, Dorothy and Maggie; brothers, Charlie, James, John, and Larry; aunts, Maggie Johnson of Detroit, Creola Allen and Gertrude Hall of Inverness; in-laws, Deidre, Ernest, Joseph and Karolyn; 32 nieces and nephews and other relatives.

DWAYNE H. MCKINLEY, born March 22, 1959 in Bakersfield, Calif., died in New York. A graduate of Foothill High, McKinley attended the University of California, Berkeley and San Francisco State University. He moved to New York in 1983, where he graduated from the Paralegal Institute 1985 and studied at Bernard Baruch College. He was most recently employed by the Minority Task Force on AIDS. He is survived by his mother, three brothers, a sister, two nephews and four nieces and other relatives.

KEVIN J. MCLEAN died Dec. 1 at 36 according to *Gay Community News*. Born in Philadelphia and raised in Springfield, Penn., McLean won a scholarship to study with the Arthur Mitchell Dance Company of Harlem in 1972. He designed a T-shirt advocating world peace for the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, and upon returning to New York he opened Manhattan Live, a vegetarian restaurant. He is survived by his lover, Stephen Kovacev, with whom he moved to Truro, Mass. in 1987, and by other relatives.

GILBERT PRICE, 48, died Jan. 2 in Vienna, Austria. A four-time Tony award nominee, the one-time Langston Hughes protege was a singer, dancer and actor for nearly 30 years. He performed on Broadway with Eartha Kitt, Melba Moore and Anthony Newley, and had been seen on numerous television shows. In 1983, Price went to the Central African Republic on a Rockefeller Grant to study Pygmy music. In 1987, he was allowed in to Cuba to entertain political prisoners. Price is survived by his family in Harlem.

MICHAEL ROLAND, born Sept. 13, 1958 in Nashville, died Feb. 16 from complications related to AIDS. Roland earned a B.A. from Morris Brown College, and did postgraduate work at California State University. An actvist both in Los Angeles and Altanta, he was a boardmember of the African-American Lesbian and Gay Alliance. He was associated with UNCF, NAACP, Task Force Against Drugs in Atlanta, Resurgeons, the Red Cross and Outreach. Roland is survived by his mother and other relatives.

PAUL RUSSELL, a dancer with the San Francisco Ballet and the Dance Theater of Harlem, died of complications related to AIDS Feb. 15. He was 43. Born in Texas, Russell was the first black to perform in *Swan Lake*. After a debut with the Hartford Ballet, he went on to join the DTH in 1971. In 1977, he danced with the Kirov Ballet and joined SFB in 1981. Russell became artistic director of the American Festival Ballet in 1988, while continuing to teach at DTH and SFB. He is survived by his companion, Randy Griffin.

CHARLES MICHAEL SMITH, 28 died at his home in Rockville, Md., Feb. 3, of AIDS related complications according to the *Washington Blade*. Born in Honolulu, he graduated from Montgomery High School in Rockville in 1981. Smith worked in the Maryland area and most recently held a position as a clerical worker for Maxima Corporation, a computer information services company in Rockville. He is survived by his parents, Cynthia and Charles; two sisters; a nephew; a niece; and special friends.

LARRY TURNER, who was born Feb. 15, 1956, died Feb. 3 according to the *Bay Area Reporter*. A Des Monies native, Turner moved to Concord in 1983, then to San Francisco a year later. He has a 12-year career in the banking industry both in Des Moines and San Francisco. He is survived by his mother, father, brothers and sisters in Iowa; and by his brother, Gary, with whom he spent his final days.

Read My Lips

by Preston G. Guider

LA LA LAND...The fashion watchword for this year's **National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference** was dreads. They were everywhere, in all configurations, and particularly on **Gary Paul Wright** of New York. Yum...And then there was **Rory Buchanan** of Brooklyn, who received a much deserved standing ovation after his Friday eve poetry reading. We'll take Rory, standing, sitting or lying down...Someone told us that **Tony Horne** admitted at the AIDS Institute Luncheon that he didn't like chocolate. We assume the subject was dessert...Conference co-chair **Michelle Walker** was everybody's mom. She got all the dirty laundry and provided a shoulder for all to cry on...With an overflow crowd, **Midgett's** workshop on sexuality might have been the most popular of the conference...**Randy Cochran** *began* his workshop by asking, "Are there any questions?"...If you stopped to count the bountiful women in the hall between workshops, you would never have got to where you were gettin'...Now we know some people have one eye on who's single this year that wuz married last year, and vice-versa, but we were too wrapped in how many folks we saw that might have delayed our coming out by a year or two had they been around 'back when'...**Ntumbu** showed that beauty comes in all sizes at her "Round and Brown" workshop, while **Vera Martin** showed beauty comes in all ages. **Karate Women** showed a strength and determination that we could all use, and the **Nia Collective** jammed where ever they where...**Katrice Jackson**, now a veteran after last year's initiation, was a model of serenity throughout...Too bad Monday morning's Agenda for the Year meeting turned into a conference bashing fest. Was this oppression sickness being acted out, or the spoils of rising expectations? **Sabrina Sojourner** took it on the chin for not being able to squeeze seven hours worth of conversation by some 50 people into the alloted three hours. Better her than us. We would have turned the place out—in the nicest way, of course...But perchance was this karma kickback for ejecting from her women-only workshop **LeBaron Stewart**, who in fact had no business being there even as a courier, but who had made an innocent mistake, and only needed to drop off some papers?...We liked **Dr. Marjorie Hill's** speech the best. In a weekend chock full 'o long speeches, not only did she keep it short, but she unleashed more simple truths than anyone else...The best dimpels belonged to **Vernal Scott**, but then so did **Dr. Charles Jackson**...

AND ELSEWHERE...Did ya catch **Midgett** in the January-February 1991 issue of *On Our Backs* talking about being a phone sex worker?...In a more intensive reprise of an event held at 1990's Black Gay and Lesbian Conference in Atlanta, New York's **Lavender Light Choir** will hold a hands-on (or is it, mouth-open) gospel workshop followed by a concert demonstrating the results of the day's training. The event takes place April 20 from 11 to 5. **Charles Brack**, BLK coverman for February 1990, has more info. 212-566-0528...**ICAN's** sixth peer counseling class (25 students only) begins April 2...**Seattle People of Color Against AIDS Network** joined with the **Seattle Bisexual Wimmin's Network** and the **Seattle Bisexual Men's Union** for a safe sex workshop last month...**Terri Jewell** and **Stephanie** report that their black lesbian anthology, ***Blood Sisters***, has now reached 300 pages representing the work of 40 women. **Firebrand** will publish...**AIDS Project Los Angeles** and the State of California Department of Health Services have announced a statewide billboard campaign urging gay men and people of color to take the HIV test...***Paris Is Burning***, which has been withdrawn from the conference and workshop distribution circuit in preparation for theatrical release, was honored at the U.S.A. Film Festival in Sundance, Utah and picked up a Best Documentary award from the Los Angeles Film Critics Association...New York State Senator **David Paterson** has spoken in favor of keeping sexual orientation in New York's Bias-Related Violence and Intimidation Act. Some want it out to increase the bill's chances of passage...**Gary Daffin** was elected co-chair of the Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus in January...**Joyce Hunter** was the keynote speaker at the seventh World Conference of the International Lesbian and Gay Youth Organization in Zurich. Hunter is director of New York's Hetrick-Martin Institute...Several members of Atlanta's black community didn't take too kindly to the lesbian and gay contingent that hoofed it in this year's Martin Luther King Jr. March from Peachtree to the King Center. But fortunately, they limited expression of their displeasure to shouting and heckling. The sprinkling of blacks that peppered the largely white throng, though, got it double...Meanwhile in Harlem, **Rev. Calvin Butts** of the Abyssinian Baptist Church has been quoted as saying he favors "specifically including gay people as people who are victims of violence." It's a tiny, long overdue recognition, but welcome nontheless. Sometimes things change awfully slowly...**Camellia Avenue School** and the San Fernando Valley Girl Scout Council held a food drive to benefit the **Minority AIDS Project** and **AIDS Project Los Angeles**...**Rev. Larry C. Moore** and **Rev. Tommy E. Sampson** were installed as pastoral bishops in the Good Samaritan Temple of Divine Science last month... **Essex Hemphill's** piece *So Many Dreams* will be performed April 10 at the Black Box Theater as part of St. Lawrence University's "Out Art: Work by and About Gay Men, Lesbians and Bisexuals." And look for Hemphill's ***Brother to Brother*** later on that month...**El Proyecto del Barrio**, **VIVA** and **CORE** join forces April 21 in a $75-a-seat AIDS benefit. The Biltmore Hotel affair will include a fashion show, artwork and fashion auction and a champagne reception. Call 213-316-3172 to attend...A survey by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies has found that over 70 percent of cullud folks prefer to be called black

"I'm so afraid all the time since my AIDS diagnosis. I just can't be sure about the future anymore. Who can?"

"I thought that when he died I could face it. It's been six months now and I just need to get these feelings out. Will I ever get over this?"

"Since my lover has been sick I've been at the end of my rope. I need to talk about how all of this is affecting me. Is that selfish?"

There are so many troubling questions surrounding someone affected by a life-threatening illness. But the Los Angeles Shanti Foundation doesn't give answers. Instead, Shanti provides a safe environment so that the one person who matters the most has the answer: you. If you or someone you love is affected by a life-threatening illness such as HIV/AIDS, please don't hesitate to reach out to Shanti for support.

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The Los Angeles Shanti Foundation provides emotional support services and education to those affected by life threatening illness, including HIV/AIDS. All services are free, confidential and a phone call away. For information, free services or to volunteer, simply call Shanti at 213/962-8197.

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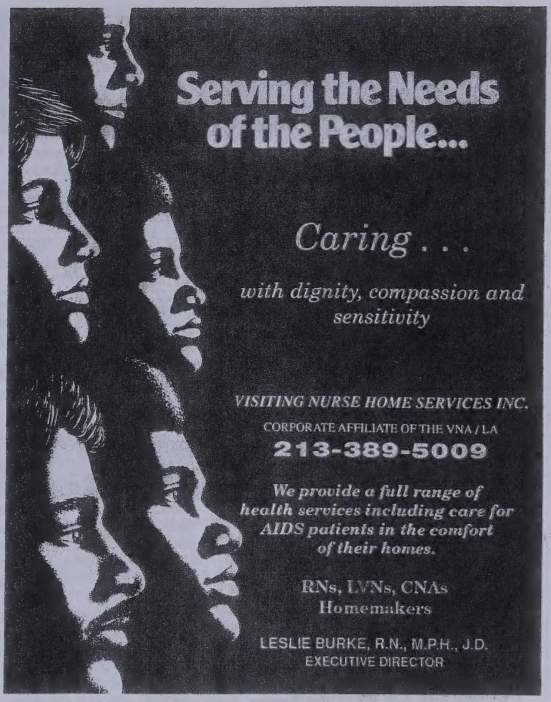
rather than African-American, with the percentage rising with age...*Outweek* reports that **Eddie Murphy** agreed to do an interview with the magazine *Vanity Fair* if the interviewer was not female, Jewish or gay. *VF* staffer **Hamilton South** says the story is a lie, but *OW* swears by several sources. We were unable to contact Mr. Murphy for comment ...L.A.'s **Wilbert Jordan**, a physician who reports some success with the controversial AIDS drug Kemron, spoke last month at a panel called "The Truth about AIDS"...New York artist and quiltmaker **Michael Cummings** exhibited his works in March at a New York Telephone exhibit which included the likes of **Romare Bearden** and **Jacob Lawrence** ...**Steve Arrington,** operations director for C.A.R.E.: Black Gay and Lesbian United Against AIDS, was selected as one of Urban Spectrum's 1991 "Blacks Who Make a Difference"... **Nubian Women,** the **Black Lesbian Support Group** and the women of the **D.C. Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gay Men** partied together at the **Encore Club** last month... Over 200 people stuffed New York's 13th St. lesbian and gay oasis for a Gulf War teach-in sponsored by **Gay Men of African Descent** and **MACT/NY**...**Perry Watkins** donated his military uniform to the Lesbian and Gay Archives of San Diego. He was a keynote speaker at Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Awareness Week on the University of California, San Diego campus. Girl, if that uniform could talk...**Chris Bates, Alexander Robinson** and **Chuck Hicks** were named by out-going mayor Marion Barry, Jr. to the District's AIDS Advisory Board...**Howard Whitfield**, program coordinator of Community Health Awareness Group in Detroit and **Colin Robinson**, research and development manager for the Bronx AIDS Community Service Project are among the participants in GMHC's new Fellowship Program...Poet **Cheryl Clarke**, Film and Videomaker **Tom Kalin** and Program Officer **Garth Tate** are among the presenters scheduled for the National Association of Artists' Organizations seventh national conference in D.C. Tate, a longtime resident of the District and one of the sweetest men in or out of captivity, recently took a position with the Dayton Hudson Foundation in Minneapolis...The float that Tampa Bay's lesbian and gay community entered in the city's Super Bowl XXV parade included two African-Americans: **Bryant Haith** and **Nadine Smith.** Another, **Dan McMillon**, was head of the decorating committee...**Lenore M. Rivers**, looking splendid, graces the month of December in the calendar, "Women of a Different Light," issued by the bookstore...*The Sentinel* reports that **Martinelli's** in San Francisco refused service to two women, one a person of color, even before they saw the menu, saying, "We don't serve lesbian bitches here." Did it occur to them that the women might just have wanted a cheeseburger. Anyway, Martinelli's has been the target of a **Queer Nation** zap and police inaction. Now you know where *not* to go if you find yourself on Broadway and Green and you're hungry...**Langston Hughes**'s ashes have been reinterred beneath a tile in the floor of the auditorium named for him in Harlem's **Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture**...**B.J. Crosby** made a surprise appearance at the Sisters benefit for Rue's House in March. Also appearing were **Nadira Ali, Elaine Gibbs,** the ubiquituous **Judy Jones, Tonette McKinney, Dui, Renee Scott** and nine-year-old **Adrienne Mariya Smith**...About 40 people attended **Wholesome Roc Gallery**'s Outer Limits Exhibit, its closing event Jan. 25, a victim of Chicago's tough economy. But the magazine it spawned, ***Planet Roc,*** will continue as an "alternative arts journal." Welcome to publishing...New York has a new group: **Southerners: Lesbians and Gay Men in New York, Inc.,** which, according to a release, "celebrates aspects of Southern culture which its members love and miss..." We can't wait to see which aspects of Southern Culture they're talking about...See ya later.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BLK MARKET

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Actors/Actresses. Celebration Theatre, L.A.'s only professional theatre devoted to gay/lesbian drama, seeks new faces for upcoming season. Send picture/resume to: Charles Herrera, Celebration Theatre, 4407-107 Sunset Blvd. #353, Los Angeles, CA 90027. (28)

Bank of New England's demise: Is your bank solvent? For a financial report, send name of bank, city and state to: Tab Financial Service, 37 Carmine St. 123-C, New York, NY 10014. Include $14.95 plus $1 S&H, Money order or check only. (29)

Playwrights. Celebration Theatre, L.A.'s only professional theatre devoted to gay/lesbian drama, seeks plays with an ethnic statement. Send submissions (include SASE) to: Charles Herrera, Celebration Theatre, 4407-107 Sunset Blvd. #353, Los Angeles, CA 90027. (28)

Wanted: Sierra Domino Newsletter back issues. Photocopies okay. Willing to pay reasonable fee, costs of photocopying and postage. Need issues 1,3, 5 and 7, and any published after issue 22. Call Alan Bell at 213-410-0808, or write BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. (27)

Opportunity for financial freedom if you have the courage to call. 708-216-9719. 24 hour. (37)

Audio plays, wild, erotic, uncensored. Phone sample, 24 hours, 213-601-6010. Adults only. (28)

University degrees without classes! Accredited bachelor's, master's, doctorates. Job/life experience recognized. Free revealing facts. Thorson-BLK4, Box 470886, Tulsa, OK 74147. (27)

Finally...a gay traffic school. If you get a traffic ticket, come and spend a fun day with friends. Call 1-800-748-5933. TVS# 00694. (32)

ORGANIZATIONS

Are you atheist? Agnostic? Secular humanist? The gay and lesbian Freethought Forum meets monthly. 213-473-7302. (28)

Hairy men/admirers. Bear/trappers! Nationwide explicit adlistings. Infopak $3.00: Hair, 59 West 10th, New York City 10011. (27)

Club Frottage, Networking group for safe (frottage/j.o.) men of color. Meetings held first and third Thursdays at 8 p.m. The Center, 208 W. 13th St., N.Y.C. For information call J. James Brown, 212-491-7228. (27)

SERVICES

Income tax preparation. Bigger refunds! Pay later may be available. 14 years of service to our community. Caesar Rucker, 213-676-9783. (28)

Professional Drug and Alcohol Help. Stop the Anger. Stop the Depression. Stop the Abuse. For 24-hour help call 1-800-STOP-NOW (1-800-786-7669). The Open Quest Institute. Serving our community since 1978. (30)

24-hour Crisis Hotline. Professional help is just a phone call away now! Depression, anxiety, AIDS-related mental/emotional problems. Other psychological problems. 1-800-444-9999. The Open Quest Institute. Serving our community since 1978. (33)

EMPLOYMENT OFFERED

Accountant-Staff. The L.A. Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center is seeking a degreed staff accountant. Minimum 2 years G/L account reconciliation and analysis exp. Must be familiar with computerized accounting and spreadsheet programs. Non-profit accounting background a+++. Submit resume and salary history to: Director of Personnel, GLCSC, 1213 N. Highland, L.A., CA 90038. Fax 213-463-1702. AA/EOE. (28)

Administrative Director. Kinheart, a lesbian-feminist agency, seeks to fill the Administrative Director position, beginning March 1991. Qualifications: Candidates should have a strongly articulated feminist approach. Experience with feminist, lesbian or other type of community-based organization. Knowledge of lesbian issues. Fund-raising and administrative skills. Salary: $22,000-$26,000 plus benefits. The Kinheart Women's Center provides a safe space for all women. The Board is deeply committed to Kinheart's programs and mission as a strong feminist-based, lesbian-affirming organization. Women of color are encouraged to apply. Interested candidates should request our information packet by writing: Kinheart Women's Center, Attn: Personnel Committee, 2214 Ridge Ave., Evanston, IL 60201. (27)

Communications/Media Director. Overall responsibilities: Full-time position reporting to the Deputy Director for Programs of the National Minority AIDS Council. The Communications/Media Director will head the Communications/Publications Program. The purpose of this program is to keep the NMAC constituency, the media and the public in general abreast of the role of people of color in the HIV epidemic. The Director will also be responsible for promoting NMAC activities and NMAC responses to developments in HIV public policy. To accomplish this, the Director will be the primary contact with the print and broadcast media and as such will prepare and disseminate editorials and press releases. Specific duties and tasks: (1) Develop and manage press relations and continuing strategies to highlight the mission and accomplishments of people of color working on the community-based response to HIV. (2) Supervise the production of the NMAC HEALer and Update, including writing, editing, layout and distribution. (3) Maintain routine contact with reporters; provide information, guidance and referrals. (4) Prepare editorials, press releases and responses to press inquiries. (5) Organize media events such as briefings and press conferences. Job qualifications: Applicants are required to have a college or advanced degree in communications or journalism; 5-7 years of experience in journalism and communications, preferably with coverage of public policy issues and legislation, especially in issues affecting minority communities; demonstrated sensitivity to AIDS-HIV issues; excellent verbal and writing skills. Applicants should be energetic and highly motivated. Bilingual skills a plus. Women, people of color, HIV+, and physically challenged encouraged to apply. To apply: Send resume and cover letter to NMAC, 300 I St., N.E., Fourth Floor, Washington, DC 20002. Attn.: Carlos Velez. Closing date: April 15, 1991. Salary: Commensurate with experience. (27)

Coordinator. Bilingual AIDS Information and Referral Directory (BAIRD Coordinator. Current opening exists for an experienced telecommunications professional who will evaluate the effectiveness and design of the Center's automated phone system. The selected individual will supervise, train and delegate appropriate tasks to the switchboard operator. Experience in implementing information, referral programs and in working with HIV services. Project management experience helpful. Bilingual skills and demonstrated ability to design culturally sensitive Spanish and English scripts for phone system is a must. Computer literarcy desirable. The Center is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer. Send resume to: John Serna, Director of Personnel, Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, 1213 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90038. (28)

Conference Assistant. Overall responsibilities: Full-time position reporting to the Conference Logistics Coordinator of the National Minority AIDS Council. The Conference Assistant will help the Coordinator in carrying the logistics function and will also be in charge of contacting the trainers and speakers for the 1991 National Skills Building Conference. The program, which in principle will be determined by the Executive Committee, will be finalized by the Assistant, who will schedule the plenaries and tracks and will advise the Coordinator of space requirements. Specific duties and tasks: (1) Contact trainers and set up the training schedule for the various tracks and plenaries. (2) Serve as primary contact between the Conference Staff and the trainers/presenters. (3) Help the trainers with necessary travel arrangements. (4) Assist in the preparation of brochures and information booklets. (5) Assist with registration of participants. (6) Assist with the compilation of the Conference Report. (7) Serve, along with the Conference Logistics Coordinator, as contact with the participants. Job qualifications: Applicants are required to have a minimum of three years conference planning experience, preferably with conferences that are national in scope. Demonstrated sensitivity to issues affecting minority communities; demonstrated sensitivity to AIDS/HIV issues; excellent verbal and written skills. Applicants should be energetic and highly motivated. Knowledge of WordPerfect and bilingual skills a plus. Women, people of color, HIV+, and physically challenged encouraged to apply. To apply: Send resume and cover letter to NMAC, 300 I St., N.E., Fourth Floor, Washington, DC 20002. Attn.: Carlos Velez. Closing date: April 15, 1991. Salary: Commensurate with experience. (27)

Conference Coordinator. Overall Responsibilities: Full time position reporting to the Deputy for Programs. The conference coordinator will be in charge of the logistics for Regional Skills Building Conference under Project HEAL and the National Skills Building Conference to be held in 1991 and the two National Public Policy Round Table discussions under the public policy education program. This position will coordinate the hotel accommodations, meeting space, program and schedule distribution as well as communications to and from the conference participants. In addition, the coordinator will prepare the conference evaluations. Specific Duties and Tasks: 1. Prepare a budget for each conference, including the expected revenue and expenses, including direct and indirect labor and overhead. 2. Coordinate the selection of scholarship recipients. 3. Select the site for each conference. 4. Communicate with the hotels as to accommodations, meeting space and food and beverage arrangements. 5. Distribute the conference information to the organizations on the NMAC mailing list. 6. Coordinate participation with other agencies in partnership with NMAC. Job Qualifications: College degree or equivalent in business administration or commensurate experience in conference logistics organization, minimum two years of experience in conference planning, including hotel accommodations, food and beverage, preparation of agendas and programs, participant registration and conference eval-

uation. Working knowledge of travel industry standards and procedures. Applicants must have demonstrated sensitivity to AIDS/HIV issues and excellent communication skills, be energetic and highly motivated. Women, people of color, HIV+ and physically challenged encouraged to apply. To apply send resume and cover letter to NMAC, 300 I St., N.E. #400, Washington, DC 20002, to the attention of Carlos Velez. All applications are held confidential. Salary: $27,000-$30,000 per year (depending on experience) plus benefits. (26)

Editor/Assistant for adult all-black magazine. Full or part-time. Must be familiar with Macintosh (Pagemaker or Quark X-Press). Send résumé to BFP, Box 42628, Los Angeles, CA 90050. (30)

Feminist Editor. Associate editor for women's publication. Exc. writing/copy-editing skills, familiarity with communities of color required. $19-22K, good benefits. Resume, short writing sample to: Sojourner, 42 Seaverns Ave., Boston, MA 02130. No calls. Women of color strongly encouraged to apply. (31)

Pastor. Faith Temple, a non-demoninational, evangelical church with a special ministry to a diverse population, is seeking a qualified candidate, who is supportive of our special outreach to the gay and lesbian community, to serve as Pastor. Qualifications included: licensed/ordained minister with pastoral experience; masters degree preferred, bachelors degree required; education should include seminary/bible college; must be saved by grace, possess gifts of the spirit and be willing to promote the ministry of Faith Temple; must have strong counseling/teaching background; must be able to lead the congregation in worship and praise. A cover letter describing the candidate's interest in the Pastoral position at Faith Temple, a resume and two letter of recommendation should be sent before April 30, 1991 to Elder Michael Vanzant, Pastoral Search, 5521 5th St., N.E., Washington, DC 20011. (28)

West Coast Canvass Coordinator. Human Rights Campaign Fund, national lesbian and gay political organization, seeks West Coast Canvass Coordinator. Responsibilities include building/developing our constituent mail program, Speak Out, through direct canvassing. Responsibilities will also include recruiting and supervising other individuals to coordinate canvassing events throughout the West Coast. Extensive travel. Qualifications: outgoing, assertive, ability to work under pressure and have excellent communication skills. Previous canvass experience is beneficial but not required. Women and people of color are encouraged to apply. Send cover letter and resume to: HRCF Canvass Manager, 1012 - 14th St., N.W. #607, WDC 20005. (27)

CALLS FOR SUBMISSION

First annual Invitational Gay Pride Queer Art (Qu-Art) Show seeks artwork for show and poetry for publication. People of color and women especially encouraged to participate. Send submissions, slides, resume, statement and SASE by April 15. If poetry, limit: five poems. Show in June. Qu'Art, N. Mason, 2049 W. Superior, Chicago, IL 60612-1313. (27)

Gay siblings anthology seeking manuscripts in the form of narratives or interviews telling significant, humorous, tragic or poignant stories of lesbians and gay men with their gay siblings. Non-fiction essays of all types will be considered. SASE. Deadline July 1, 1991. Don and Molly Martin, 1016 E. 7th Ave., Olympia, WA 98501. (27)

Seeking women's stories about the deaths of their mothers. There are no books that speak to the specific grief of women losing their mothers. This anthology will allow us to find strength and solace in each others experiences and insights. First person narratives, short stories and essays welcome. Send SASE for more info, or contributions by April 30, 1991 to: Helen Vozenilek, Box 18, Berekeley, CA 94701. (27)

The Conditions Collective is accepting submissions for an anthology of new writing by women on the topic of women and censorship to be published by Cleis Press. The Collective will consider fiction, poetry, analytical essays, novel excerpts, and translations on this topic. How does censorship relate to the issues of, for example, race, class, age, relationships, sexuality, women in prison, women with AIDS/HIV, and women's and lesbian movements? The writings could also explore the ramifications of censorship on future writing; the ways that women censor one another and themselves; or the homophobic hysteria over gay and lesbian writing and visual images. Black and white photographs and other visuals will also be considered. The Conditions Collective welcomes the work of women all around the world who feel that a commitment to women is an integral part of their lives. Please send submissions, before June 1, 1990, (typed, double-spaced, up to 15 pages, with a SASE for return) to: Conditions, Box 1640, New York, NY 10003. (27)

The 1991 Lesbian Writers' Fund is seeking submissions of fiction or poetry. Five grants of $11,000 each will be awarded to emerging lesbian writers of fiction and poetry. Additionally, a $5,000 Sappho Award of Distinction will be awarded to an established lesbian writer. The work of the applicant must have been published in a magazine, newspaper, literary journal or anthology. Authors of published books are not eligible for application, unless the book is self-published, or the author is the editor of the book. The 1991 deadline for application is April 5. For application forms call 212-529-8021 or write the Astraea National Lesbian Action Foundation, 666 Broadway #520, New York, NY 10012. (27)

Submissions of rap and poetry sought from lesbian and gay youth by IMRU, Southern California's longest running lesbian and gay radio program, for a special broadcast featuring rap music and verse. We're looking for rap poetry or music that's original, reflects lesbian and/or gay themes, and is positive, life affirming and empowering for lesbians and gay men. Entries containing the following will be disqualified: 1. Racism, sexism, homophobia or mean-spirited attacks on vulnerable groups of people. 2. Profanity or material even remotely connected to or connotating sexual or excretory functions or organs, due to FCC regulations on so-called "indecent" language. Submission requirements: 1. All entrants must be 18 to 24 years of age. 2. Individuals or groups may enter a maximum of two entries. 3. The following information must be provided on a 3"x5" index card: Artist's name, title of piece, format (rap song or poem), performance time (three minutes maximum), contact person's name, address and phone number (advise if discretion should be used when writing or phoning). 4. Text or lyrics of the entry must be typed only, on separate sheets of paper. Audio cassettes will be accepted only if accompanied by typed copy. No exceptions. 5. Entry deadline is April 26, 1991 at midnight. Absolutely no entries will be accepted after the deadline. All entries become property of Pacifica Radio/KPFK-FM and no entry will be returned to the entrant. Selected entries will be featured on the 14th annual KPFK Lesbian and Gay Day Radio Marathon, a 15-hour radio-spectacular tentatively scheduled for July 7, 1991. To ensure broadcast quality, selected entries may be required to record or re-record materials at the KPFK. Entries should be sent to: Joey Flyer, IMRU/Overnight Productions, KPFK-FM, 3729 Cahuenga Blvd. West, North Hollywood, CA 91604. (27)

Gay and Lesbian Media Coalition is seeking recently created videos by artists of color to be incouded in this year's L.A. International Gay and Lesbian Film and Video Festival to be held in July. Documentaries, experimental art and narrative pieces, animation and super-8 film transfers will all be considered. Send VHS or 3/4" videotapes by May 1, 1991 to: Adriene Jenik, GLMC, 8228 Sunset Blvd. #308, L.A., CA 90046. (29)

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Single apartment. Furnished. USC area. Mature adult. $400 per month. Call Dennis 213-731-3659. (30)

Three bedroom townhome, large bedroom and bath for rent. Quiet area, clean environment. $450 includes utilities. Move in immediately. For more information call 213-299-6758. (29)

House for rent. Looking for 2 or 3 responsible people to rent a large beautiful house in the Crenshaw-Baldwin Hills area. 2 large bedrooms, large dining room, living room, breakfast room, fireplace, large front and back yard. 2-car garage. Washer and dryer. $500 month. Price negotiable. 213-733-1681. Call anytime. (27)

FOR SALE

Skins, the fanzine for kinky uncut men. Free ads. Sample copy: $4 and statement of age. CB&V, Box 97694, Las Vegas, NV 89193. (39)

Hot sex! You can have it with this amazing herbal formula. Increases stamina and enhances sex drive. 100% natural. Safe and effective. Send $10 + SASE to Delacroix, 7605 Santa Monica Blvd. #610-B, L.A., CA 90046. (30)

Heat! Chicago black men in erotic photos! For sampler set send: Age (21+), signature, $10 to Zebra Studios, Box 138271, Chicago, IL 60613. (28)

True GB sex stories by white man. Mail SASE to 1800 Market #230. S.F. 94102. (27)

Gay magazines. Pack of 6 hot used magazines. Just $15. P&H, Inc. Send check or M.O. to Island Marketing, 127 S. Shore Dr., Island Lake, IL 60042, State you are 21. (37)

BLK T-shirts, sweatshirts, key tags, back issues, note cards, etc. now available mail order. Write: BLK Mail and Femail Store Catalog, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. Or call 800-TRUE-BLK, anytime 24 hours a day, seven days a week. (TF)

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Big, black and hairy, 38, 6'1", 175 lbs., lean, fit, top man, hung 8x6, cut, $50 min. in/out, ask for Mike. 213-874-9203. (29)

Randy Cochran. 818-997-3776. L.A.'s hot top black studman. Hung huge, yet versatile. 28, 5'9", 160 lbs., with a tight smooth body. 24-hour, in-out sessions. $125-$200/hr. Video titles include "Black Attack," "Heatwaves," "Black Force" and many more. Visits are in person...Not associated with 976-WOLF. Safe sex okay. (29)

The Real McCoy. Very handsome Italian professional, 29, great body, offers custom-tailored 5-star bodywork to the discerning man. Atmosphere, style, technique and more. Quite simply...the best! 213-288-6800. (31)

Professional massage. You've seen the rest. Now deal with the best. Licensed/non-sexual massage. Call for appointment. 465-8147. Ask for Lamont. (E)

Attractive, well-built white guy, 29, 5'7", 135, offers deep, thorough relaxing massage to other in-shape guys, candelight, table. $40 in West Hollywood; $? out. Greg 213-288-6416. (E)

I'm Thomas, a tall, goodlooking white masseur near Palm Springs airport. Let me work on your stressed-out body and soul. 619-322-8077. (27)

Rugged Brazilian. Full body massage by a handsome 6'2", 205 lbs. bodybuilder. Legit with table. $50/in. $75/out. West Hollywood location. 24 hours. Tony, 213-274-8070. (E)

Stop. Handsome, bubble-butted athlete will rub you in all the right spots. Don't be duped by phony masseurs. Let my

legit, certified hands do the walking on your stressed body. $40 in. $60 out. 95% recall. Call Bryan. 213-224-0243. 24 hours. (29)

WOMEN'S PERSONALS

SBM, 40, very dominant arty type, likes dtraight, submissive bi-ladies, lesbians. No phonies, drugs. I'm hot and kinky. Hurry! BLK Mailbox #124. (28)

Hampton Roads Virginia area. Single, black bisexual female, professional, 31, in search of feminine lesbian or bi-female for relationship varied interests. No fats, drugs, drugs or marrieds. Photo and note appreciated to BLK Mailbox #121. (27)

BF, 26, student, not looking for romance through this ad. However, I would like to exchange postcards, short notes or long letters with women from all over. I live in Detroit. BLK Mailbox #107. (27)

Soulful, diamond in the raw, 19, African-American ISO lasting friendships with multi-cultured, positive lesbian sisters USA/abroad (18-?). Will answer all. Maria, 329 Childress Lane, Flora, MS 39071-9740. (29)

Fluffy, feminine, early 40s, fun-loving, witty, sensitive, romantic, who appreciates nature, intimacy, looking for independent butch. I am 5'7½", sexy, plump. Seek friendship first. Who knows what can happen? BLK Mailbox #115. (28)

Professional GBF, 5'8", 160 lbs., 39 years, seeks fems with no drugs, alcohol or smoking. Prefer Christian lady. Let's give it a try for lasting relationship. I've been celibate for the past 3 years. For special times now. I love to please, and passion's my first name. Curious? BLK Mailbox #103. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS INTERNATIONAL

Canadian GWM, 34, 5'9", 160#, attractive, masculine, fit, blue eyes, dark blond hair, beard, university student, enjoys reading, movies, videos, pen pals, swimming, outdoors, travel, seeks friends, any race or age, anywhere. T.H., Box 46612, Stn. G, Vancouver, BC V6R 4G8, Canada. (30)

Young, nice looking, passive Brazilian gay boy, 30 years old, golden skin, sweet smile, dreamful eyes, seeks masculine, active, black gay men, any age, for exchange of letters and possible coming meeting. Write in English soon. Diogo Fontenelle, rua Gustavo Sampaio, 301, 60.455 Fortaleza, Ceara, Brazil. (E)

Attractive Frenchman, 37, 5'11", 165 lbs., good hairy body, Greek active, well-traveled, multi-lingual, seeks very muscular, masculine, Greek passive, black or Puerto Rican friends, 19-35. Visitors welcome to Paris. Photo, please. BLK Mailbox #104. (E)

Visiting Italy? Bearded couple awaits BMs. D. Russo, Via Massena 51, Torino 10128, Italy. (29)

Dutch GWM, attractive, 36, wants to correspond with GBM and exchange photos. Tony Spoelstra, Box 4017, 8600 GA, Sneek, Holland. (E)

Active Japanese seeks muscular BM. Fujinuma, Nihontsutsumi 2-16-6, Taitoku, Tokyo, Japan. (29)

GWM, teddy-bear, seeks dominant BM tops for intimate friendship and fun. Doug, #103-4800 Arbutus, Vancouver, BC V6J 4A5. 604-263-3991. (TF)

MEN'S PERSONALS EASTERN U.S.

Are there any black and Latin tops out there? Haven't been able to find any. Prove you're not an endangered species! PR bottom would like to meet you. Age or dick size not important. Must look/act straight. I'm 40, 140 lbs., 5'11", slim. Write to: Louis, Box 642, Corona-Elmhurst, NY 11373-0642. Letter with photo and/or phone gets answered first. (28)

Attractive, masculine, GBM, 25, would like to meet GBM from everywhere who could teach an inexperienced ex-prisoner of guilt about being gay. The joy of gay sex! Am very eager to learn. Send your hottest letters and nude photos. In return you'll get mine. M.T., Box 12143, Cola, SC 29209. No fems, please!(29)

Attractive, educated black male, masculine, healthy, witty, funny, romantic, budding screenwriter, 5'9", 165 pounds, 32, nice brown bod, seeks a goodlooking, masculine, muscular, bearded, Sam Elliot or Bruce Willis type, professional, thirtysomething, creative, smart, who enjoys art, cinema, jazz, country weekends, snuggle bundling, cozy intimacy, cream and berries in bed, and delicious monogamy. Serious males only. Photo desired. Michael, Box 350, Richmond, Virginia 23202. (E)

GWM, 43, BB, handsome, 195 lbs., hairy, versatile, 6', seeks lean, muscular, defined, sincere, honest, GBM with washboard abdominals. Photo necessary. Box 6A, 111 Montague St., Brooklyn, NY 11201. (27)

You: BGM. Me: Frustrated. Help! Box 130, Pennsauken, NJ 08110. (29)

Nice guy seeks same for friendship. This 50-year-old straight-acting WM is looking for a very masculine BM. Pleasant disposition, positive outlook and stability are important to me. Blue collar, thick endowment and trim build are pluses. Send detailed letter and photo of yourself to: BLK Mailbox #118 or call 301-779-6738. Pen pals welcome. Visitors to D.C. should call in advance of arrival. (29)

White male, middle age, enjoys the company and friendship of black males for dinner, theater and quiet times. John, Box 10042, Staten Island, NY 10310. (29)

Very lonely black gent, retired professional, 65, silver-haired, medium brown skin, very short, stocky (5'2", 155), shy, submissive, servile, plain looking, conversationalist, Fr/Act only; eagerly seeks male (only) friends, guests (blacks, Hispanics, any race/age) who are clean, intelligent, dominant, large, macho, Fr/Pass., verbally aggressive (no drugs, S/M), discreet. 212-681-0179 evenings only 9-11:30 p.m. Dave R., 930 Grand Concourse #6B, Bronx, N.Y. 10451. No inmates. (27)

White male, 32, 160, brown hair, blue eyes, seeking young males for friends/sexual partners. Prefer cute, slim, smooth, cut, clean-shaven boyish Northern European, black and Southeast Asians. Like music, philosophy, science, health food. Am honest, sensitive, sincere. Live-in possible. No V.D., kinky/slutty types. Photo a must (preferably revealing)! Ron, Box 307, Irvington, NJ 07111-1940. (31)

GBM, masculine, intelligent seeks GM. Box 400665, Brooklyn, NY 11240. (28)

Muscular, hard runner's build. Hot, sensual, HIV-, hung, versatile. Smooth, upbeat professional GWM, 44, 5'5", 128 lbs., enjoying fitness, outdoors, humor, arts, work, romance, travel, seeks warm-spirited, firm-bodied, hot-blooded, creative-minded, healthy-habited GBM, 30-45, any location, for fun/friendship/relationship. Rick, Box 4102, Utica, NY 13504. (27)

BiBM, 25, 5'9", hazel eyes, seeks black or Latino homeboy type, 18-26, in N.Y.C. area with athletic build for occasional, boy-to-boy fun. Must be disease-free. Send ph/ph. Let's do this. BLK Mailbox #119. (28)

Black male, 31, 190 lbs., stocky muscular build, seeks white males, 28-50, from Connecticut to Maine. I will be relocating to Newport, R.I. June or July 1991. (27)

Hot blooded, masculine, black Southern buck, 25, with hot Southern comfort to offer. Interested in masculine GBM everywhere. I'm extremely fond of medium to large physique men, however, slender men are welcome also. Send your hottest letters and photos in exchange for mine. (No fats or fems, please.) Marc, Box 12143, Cola, SC 29211. (29)

Black hung seeking black hung. Box 602, Huntsville, Alabama 35804. (28)

Hung GBM, 50s, top, seeks hairy Hispanic bottom. BLK Mailbox #120. (27)

GBM, 20, seeks GWM for relationship. Box 1825, Rahway, NJ 07065. (28)

Masculine GBM wanted by goodlooking GBM, 24, for friendship/fun. Send letter/picture to: Boxholder, Box 2122, New York 10008-2122. (28)

GWM, 48, goodlooking, masculine appearance, HIV-, caring, down to earth guy, seeks young, masculine BM, 18-30 for serious relationship, Box 547, Bridgehampton, NY 11932. (29)

GBM, 24, 5'11", 165 lbs., in Washington, D.C. area, mature, very attractive and straight acting/appearance, enjoys playing baseball, basketball, tennis. I am seeking someone for possible friendship/something serious with GBM/BiBM, 25-43. Like I, you must be healthy, sexy, a little romantic, spiritually conscious, straightforward, discreet (not paranoid), comfortable with yourself/sexuality. Important that you have an awareness and concern of the black community and its struggles. Knowledge or willing to learn of your black culture/heritage a plus. Must be someone who is serious and realizes life and relationships consist of more than just sex, but of respect for yourself, me, our families and friends! Could I be asking too much? Let's make my first ad a success! No effeminates! BLK Mailbox #123 (27)

GWM, 31, seeks GBM. R.G., Box 83, Hackensack, NJ 07602-0083. (29)

Lean, muscular, GBM, top, 52, 6', 155, seeks fit, muscular, intelligent bottoms, into camping, hiking, nudism, travel, all ages/races. J. Tree, Box 161, S.I., NY 10304. (29)

GWM, 39, 5'9", 165. NY City. Intelligent, energetic, low key, sexually alive, looking for similar man who is black, and who is interested in at least some of the following: music, books, jogging, gym, travel, movies, plays, museums, computers. Goal: relationship. Please send letter and photo (if possible). I'm serious! BLK Mailbox #116. (E)

GWM, continental, refined, personable, safe, hospitable, in his 50s, seeks hung BM for worship and devotion. 212-677-4159. (29)

Gay white male, 41, straight-acting and ex-military, seeks black friends anywhere. Will answer all. Mike Thomas, Box 16911, Greensboro, NC 27416(27)

Hot-assed white boy, 33, 5'9", 152, goodlooking and submissive, needs dominant, verbal, very masculine topman, black or Latin, to make me service and worship you and your buddies. Will wear panties and be your pussyboy. Will write to real men anywhere, even in prison. Box 581, N.Y., N.Y. 10274. (E)

WM, 53, seeks thin, romantic, clean black male in Boston. BLK Mailbox #113. (28)

Congenial WM ISO BM. Box 284, Hartford, CT 06141-0284. (TF)

MEN'S PERSONALS CENTRAL U.S.

Black male, seeking bi-couples, TVs, TSs, drag queens, crossdressers, any race, any shape, ages 21 to 55, for friendship, kinky times, swinging. Am clean and discreet. Like all cultures. Motel meetings in Natchez, Miss., Vidalia, La., Ferriday, La. area. Call anytime day or night. 318-339-9269. C.B., Box 941, Jonesville, La. 71343. (29)

Houston: GWM, 52, 5'7½", HIV-, bottom, wants very large black men, horse hung, to enjoy this hungry ass. Send photo and address. BLK Mailbox #122. (27)

GBM, 36, 5'8", 140. Educated, articulate, seeks penpals, possible relationship. Answer all. Photo exchange. Box 30, #872944, Pendleton, IN 46064(27)

Incarcerated in Indiana. GWM, 30, handsome, intelligent, out in one year, seeks sincere, serious lifemate. No games. Jeff Schrader #21140, Box 30, Pendleton, IN 46064. (29)

WM, 30, 5'7", 150 lbs., goodlooking,

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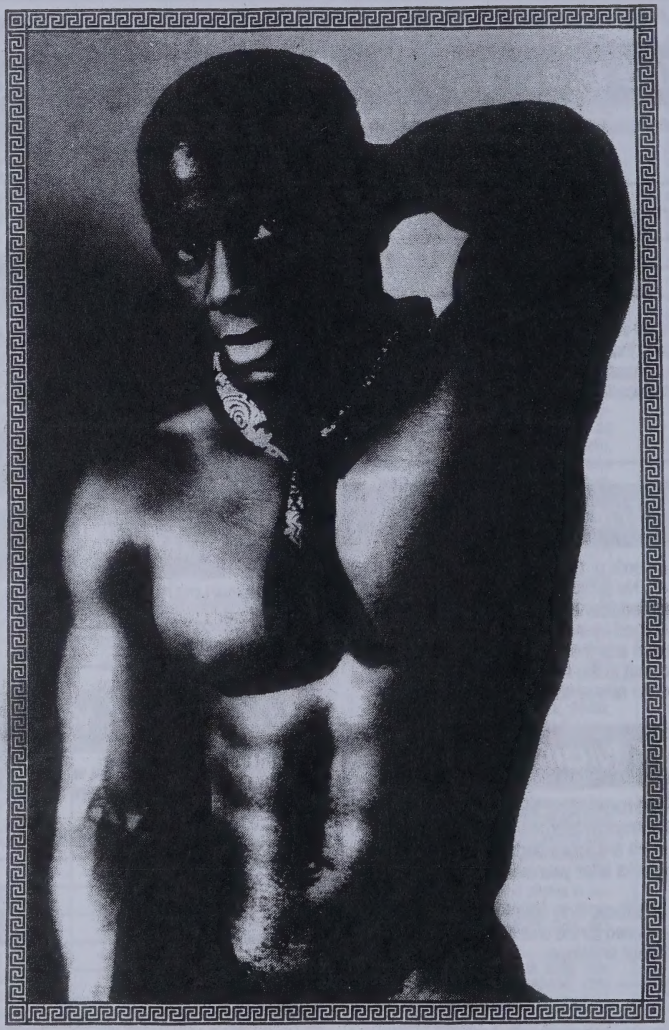

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wants to be submissive sexually by goodlooking BM. I'm into leather, and like it wild and freaky. I have a bubble butt; you must have one too. No fats or femmes. We'll start as friends and see what develops. Detroit. 313-527-2965. (E)

Incarcerated male to be released in under a year. Now that you know my bad side. I'm a white male, 27 years old, 5'6", 150 lbs., green eyes, with long brown hair. Wide variety of interests that range from weightlifting, bikes, traveling, nature, etc. Pretty down to earth guy who enjoys the easier things in life. Honesty and loyalty are my two strongest points along with a good character and an easy laugh. I have an open mind, therefore, I am an easy person to converse with, and encourage meaningful conversation. I feel the sole purpose of life is to simply be happy and enjoy it as it comes. I'd like to hear from a mature gentlemen for friendship, companionship. Please write to M. Leonard, #875533, Box 30, Pendleton, IN 46064. I hope to hear from you soon. (27)

Black gay male seeks a mentally and physically stimulating relationship with gay male. You: healthy sense of humor, positive outlook, willing and capable of being equal and sharing mate, best friend, lover in a healthy, trusting, honest relationship. Me: attractive, 43 years, 5'7", muscular, 160 lbs., non-smoker, drinker or drug user, with a masculine demeanor and variety of interests. Send letter and photo, Chas., Box 524, Cincinnati, OH 45201. (28)

GMW, 5'10", 155, 35, ISO GBM 18-30 for friendship and possibly more. Relocating to Dayton, Ohio area soon and need roommate/housemate. Respond with photo to Ron, Box 17474, Arlington, VA 22216. Let's talk. Trust me, you can't go wrong. Pen pals welcome(28)

Incarcerated male, 33, black, seeking friendship with gay bottom. Christopher Galloway, Box 45699, Lucasville, OH 45699-0001. (27)

Listen up, fellas. GBM, 30, 6'1", 210 lbs., masculine build, college football jock, top, professional. I'm looking for a GBM, Carribean, South American, Oriental bottom, ages 25 to 45. No fatties. I'm HIV-, willing to travel to East Coast, Midwest, Southeast U.S.A. Looking for that special someone who is interested in dining, movies, jazz, fitness. A bottom who wants to be with someone who wants to make you happy. Please send letter, photos. Nude photo will get even faster reply. Mail to BLK Mailbox #110. I am very passionate. I like to give a warm massage and rub you all over. (28)

GWM, 30s, blond, 5'9", 140 lbs., athletic, masculine, movies, travel, working out, etc. seeks athletic GBM or BiBM, under 40 years old, for safe, hot encounters. Top/bottom. 312-327-4895. (28)

GWM wants relationship. Dennis Pitman, #882430, Box 30, Pendleton, IN 46064. (29)

Masculine black man wanted by masculine white 40s businessman. Your age/education are not important. I'm willing to help with education/employment/relocation. 2421 Pratt, Chicago 60645. (E)

Gay black father seeks friendship/relationship with other gay fathers black or white or those who appreciate children who have reached adolescent age. I am a warm sensitive romantic in search of others who are family-oriented. Write Ly-Leh, Box 144, Evergreen, LA 71333. (29)

White, 38, lonely, hot. J. Evans, 610 N. Henrietta, Effingham, IL 62401. (29)

GWM, 27, Brett Short, Box 30, 17-3/A, Pendleton, IN 46064 (E)

WM, 35, 6', 175, masculine, muscular and very athletic is seeking mature man, 36-55 for relationship. I am professionally employed, honest and non-promiscuous. You must be sincere, non-promiscuous and very masculine. Type of employment unimportant but I prefer a rugged, broad-shoulders type, 200 lbs. or more in weight. Beer gut okay. Box 88391, Indianapolis, IN 46208. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS WESTERN U.S.

You are top, hung, HIV+ and want to enjoy life. Loving home waiting for you in Hawaii. Write: Boxholder, Box 75704, Honolulu, HI 96836. (30)

Caribbean man wants tops with thick dicks. Box 18714, Denver, CO 80218. (29)

Hot white bottom seeks hot black tops. I'm 27, goodlooking, with a hot butt that knows how to open up and out. I travel Oregon, California often. Rich V., 19924 Aurora Ave. #141, North Seattle, WA 98133. (E)

BGM seeks WGM bear leather. Photo. Occupant, Box 1128. Reno, Nevada 89504. (E)

GWM, 55, 5'8", 150, attractive Utah professional, seeks GBM or Latin athlete, non-smoker, non-drinker, non-drug user. If you fit this description and are seriously looking for a quality one-one relationship, call 801-364-2523. (32)

Northern California

BM looking for BM. I am 5'10", 30 years old, 160 lbs., workout, have good job. If you would like a date, send photo to 438 Staten #302, Oakland, CA 94610. (29)

Phone sex. Black men only. 415-775-4919. (29)

Uncut man wanted. Hot blue-eyed blond HIV- man, 48, seeks uncut G/L guy wanting a rare honest loving man that will wine, dine and pump him. No bullshit. C.R., 751 Laurel Ave. #428, San Carlos, CA 94070. Must send picture/phone number. Otherwise, no reply. (E)

WM, slender, cute ass, mature, seeks hung BM. Boxholder A, Box 10436, Oakland, CA 94610. (E)

2 GWMs, 40 years old, seek heavy hung GBM for fun and safe sex. (Temecula area.) Reply to Occupant, Box 885, Winchester, CA 92396. (28)

Cute GBM, 33, 150 lbs., 5'5", short but deep bottom seeks top masculine black bi or gay men for friendship and fun. Write Box 70571, Oakland, CA 94612. (E)

Goodlooking WM blows blacks. Travels. Box 3271, Daly City, CA 94015(E)

White sucks, eats, drinks blacks. Bring beer. My place. 415-928-7736. (E)

Huge white hole eats dildos. Stretch it! Call hole. 415-585-8717. (28)

BGM looking for penpals. Emmette Mitchell, C-22649, L318, Box 2000, Vacaville, CA 95696-2000. (E)

GBM, 33, bottom, seeks top bi or GBM, discreet, bright. Box 70571, Oakland, CA 94612. (33)

San Diego Area

Very special French-American businessman, 39, 5'11", 170 blond, masculine, non-smoker, non-drinker, healthy HIV+, intelligent, energetic, low-key, would like to share good times and travel between Europe and the U.S. with tall black man or Latino (over 6'2" if possible), educated, fun, very masculine (muscles not important), professional, strong, top, truly heavily hung and long-lasting. Must be of excellent character. I have a lot to offer. Try me. You'll be glad you did. BLK Mailbox #125. (29)

Sapien erectus! Wanna unload? It's O.K.! Phone 619-292-1922 now! (29)

Beefy GWM stud seeking expert oral service. Call Larry, 619-324-8964. (28)

Palm Springs topman seeking playmates! Boxholder #3337, PS, CA 92263. (28)

Male looking for hung, biBM. T.G., Box 3391, San Diego, CA 92163. (30)

European GM, 36, 5'6", 150 lbs., blond, blue, moustache, hairy, smoker, HIV+, healthy, intelligent and affectionate seeks friendship with mature, sincere black man 18+ to 50. Looks unimportant. BLK Mailbox #111. (E)

GWM, masculine, top man. Larry, Box 3337, Palm Springs, CA 92263. (28)

English GWM, 53, friends for correspondence or ? Desert, mountains, sun. Race, age, size immaterial. Photo with letter, please. G.J., Box 285, Adelanto, CA 92301. (E)

WM wants serious BM. Ted, 619-696-0980. (E)

Los Angeles Area

Footbal player, beefy weightlifter wanted. U—love to cuddle. I—love to massage. We—need to belong. Black man, 41, 5'9", 180, workout. Box 29037, Los Angeles, CA 90029. (32)

Seek nine inches plus safe sex. I'm blond, blue, 5'11", 160, 30s, good shape. 213-657-5444. (30)

Handsome WM, 35, seeks olderman 37-57. I am 6', 180, built, muscular (weightlifter), non-promiscuous physician. You be loving, burly, 200 lbs. plus, paunchy but stocky type, honest and very masculine. I am not into "gay scene." BLK Mailbox #126. (30)

GBM, 60, 6', 175 lbs., interested in meeting GAM, 50 to 60. Have own transportation. Like bowling, some sports, going to very small parties. Do not like heavy drink or drugs. Prefer non-smoker. Like weekend trips and long distance travel. If sex, safe only. BLK Mailbox #109. (27)

Black dick seeks warm mouth. Edward, 213-938-4964. (30)

Attractive BGM, 6'3", 215 lbs., with big juicy ass and thighs, you know the story, seeks black bi- or gay freaks, uh, tops, for hot and heavy sessions! Participants and voyeurs welcome. Rudy, Box 1684, L.A., CA 90078. (E)

GWM, 47, 6'2", 165, blond, blue, HIV-, wants to meet young, slim, masculine black guys for friends. Non-smoker/drugs. Love the outdoors, camping, hiking, motorcycle riding, travel. Romantic: like quiet times. Not into bars/gay scene. Ben 818-785-1028. (28)

Looking for horny, well-hung, uncut. Also black men who enjoy receiving great blow jobs. Call evenings. No calls on Saturday. Jim, 818-344-1913. (28)

Sexy French muscular bodybuilder, 30, 5'10", 175 bubblebutt, green-blue eyes, longs for tall, massive, super muscular, think, bodybuilder over 200 lbs., any race, for friendship and safe fun. Am discreet, sophisticated. 213-656-2942. (32)

BM seeks Asians, blacks and Latins with juicy butts or vaginas for good times. Call 213-465-8968. Serious callers only! (27)

Handsome, husky blond wants black or Latin cock. 213-874-7657. (28)

Handsome black man, 35, 195#, well-built, who likes to workout with weights and jog on a daily basis, would like to meet honest, sincere person for friendship, black or white, who loves the outdoors and some sports. Rod, 213-733-1681. (27)

If you're a tall healthy GBM with a big cock, call Lee at 818-896-8890. This GL blond wants to please you. (30)

Tony of Wilton Place. Call Lee at 818-896-8890. (30)

Venice beach. Half Japanese male seeks sincere relationship-oriented black male for possibilities. 213-399-2953. (28)

Mexican wants big dick. Box 19543, LAX 90019. (30)

Is there life after HIV+? African-American male, 38, HIV+, healthy, seeks other healthy HIV+ males. Send photo if possible with response to: Emerge, Box 818, Inglewood, CA 90307. (28)

Commitment and values: B/M, 38, 5'11", 170, G/P, seeks an affectionate, tall, G/A white or black top man, 40-55, who lives 1-to-1, homelife, mountains and stability. Mel, Box 712427, L.A. 90071, 213-656-0258, ext. 22 (28)

Hot, sexy, intelligent freak! 25 year old 6'2". 170 lb. black brother, looking for

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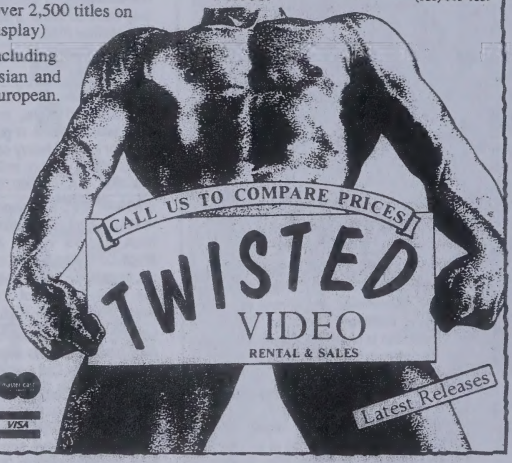

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Wednesday,
April 10
8-10:30
The Center
208 West 13th

MEN MEETING MEN

EROTICIZING SAFER SEX

Wed.
April 17
8-10:30
The Center
208 West 13th

No Registration Required

safer sex

GMHC

GET A LITTLE... FUN!

INTRODUCTIONS

CONFESSIONS

VOICEMAIL

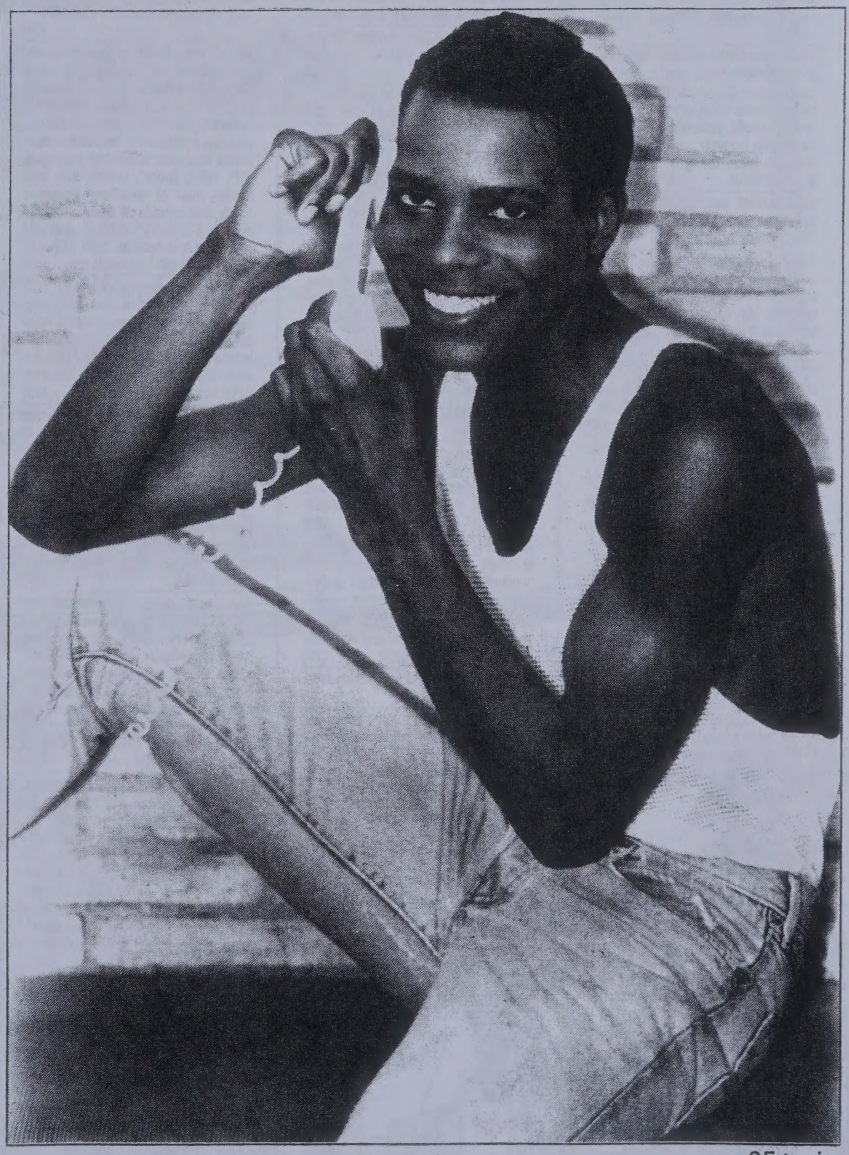
FANTASIES

JOKES

ADVICE

HELPFUL HINTS

PERSONAL SERVICES



95¢ min.

1-900-FUN-1990

3 8 6

someone who can work it! You: black/Puerto Rican, 21-30something, intelligent, goodlooking, tall, nice firm body, preferably uncut, who works in more ways than one! M.H., 213-296-2906. (27)

Magician seeks men of color into magick/witchcraft. Seriouos. 213-461-1338. (30)

Handsome GWM, 29, 5'6", 145, terrific smile, athletic build, into working out, movies, traveling, moonlit walks on the beach, seeks GBM, 29-35, masculine, muscular build, professional, into same, looking for honesty romance, relationship. No fems, fats or games please. 818-242-5858. (28)

Boxer shorts, tattooed uncuts wanted by hunk. Box 39881, Los Angeles 90039-0881. (28)

Single Latin guy looking to meet someone honest and sincere. Attractive with a sense of humor. I'm normal and down to earth. You be too. Masculine types only. Call 818-890-0307. Keep trying. (E)

Wanted: Non-angry GBM for tender relationship w/GWM artist, 36. Size unimportant. Ray Box 46846, L.A. 90046. (30)

BBM, professional, seeks, TV/TS for ser relationship. Jim, 213-876-7949. (28)

Professional, very busy, 5'11", 160, 30s, seeks 8 inches or more. Safe sex. Financial arrangement for your time. F. Hammond, 8721 Santa Monica Blvd., #125, West Hollywood, CA 90069.(30)

Handsome, 41, GBM, professional, sexy, seeks young GBM or GWM, 22-28, for fun, hot times, romance, adventure and possible relationship. You should be attractive, well-built, intelligent, enjoy music, movies, dining out, romance, and long, slow, warm love-making in front of my fireplace. Photo/phone/letter a must. We've both been looking for each other. Now it's up to you. BLK Mailbox #114. (27)

BM, plump top, needs a bottom BM with dark, dark skin for safe fun. I like men 5'10" to 6'2" that like the bottom. A big tool is A+. Let the fun begin. David, Box 84174, L.A., CA 90073. (29)

Me: WM, 5'9", HIV+, hairy, 37. You: man of color, HIV+, versatile and sincere. Al, 213-665-1304. Thank you(28)

BM. Black hips. Can I immerse 7½ real deep? D.P., Box 84174, L.A., CA 90073. (29)

Cute blond bottom seeks giant buffed dominant men. 818-765-5132. (28)

GWM seeks GBM, handsome, hairy N.Y. Greek, 28, 165#, 5'10", well-built with Mel Gibson looks. Seeks well-built nice GBM, 25-38, for friendship or workout partner. Leave message, 24 hour. Mel. 213-281-1171. (30)

If your sex black tool is extra large (diameter and/or length) I challenge you to try me. I am 35 years old, Latino, 140 pounds, 5'7", bilingual. Letter and/or nude photo. Mr. V., Box 761326, Los Angeles, CA 90076. (31)

Sincere, slender black male artist seeks handsome, very aggressive, versatile, sincere, homo erectus, any race. No chubbies, queens or losers. Call 213-661-1431. (33)

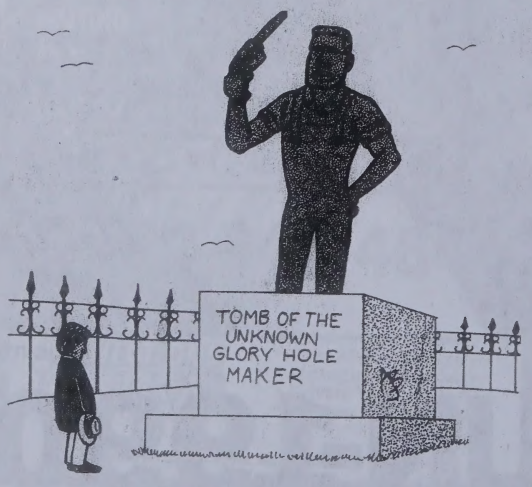
Great looking couple. Black top, 45, white bottom, 30, like to meet black top/white bottom duo for friendship and safe sex. Box 42794, LAX 90050-0794. (30)

Attractive, masculine, GBM looking for in-shape, muscular men to play racquetball or tennis with. Bobby 818-798-4205. (28)

BGM would like to meet BGM for relationship. Must be honest and into safer sex. Louis, 213-274-6272. (28)

Hot raunchy white wants domination. Box 86651, L.A. 90026. (30)

Black male wanted to share home and life with. Me: Stable affectionate, white male, HIV neg., 50s, 6', 178 pounds. You: 30-45. Will 818-362-2022. (27)



Sexy, white drag queen loves black dick (French/Greek). 415-461-4135. (28)

Handsome, muscular GBM, financially independent. I enjoy playing and watching sports, movies, dinners. Seek same for friendship, any race. Bottoms only. No games. Bob 818-798-4205. (28)

White seeks black for friendship and more. GWM, 32, body-builder, seeks GBM, 27 to 40. Me: honest, energetic, intelligent, mature, passionate, loving, assertive but versatile, capable of compromise, professional, handsome, masculine, muscular, brown hair, blue eyes, 6'2", 195#, 8x5½", bubble-butt. You: similar man of excellent character, ready and capable of being an equal partner, 6'2" to 6'5", 9x6½+", dark and muscular and healthy. Call 619-322-6292. You won't be bored! (31)

Goodlooking, easy-going, very oral, sensual, safe, flexible, fun GWM, professional, 43, 180 6', moustache, hairy chest, seeks very muscular only (body-builder a plus), black male for pleasurable, discreet contact. Call 213-913-0259 before 10 p.m. (30)

Attractive and successful black writer seeks intelligent and articulate man of any race for travel, dating, romance. I am 30, 5'9", 140, swimmer. Call, leave message, 213-222-1115, or write Box 421145, Los Angeles, CA 90042. (29)

Black male, 35, 175 pounds, 5'8", bottom, wants to meet bodybuilder for mutual workouts. 818-913-1575. Race not important. (30)

A very handsome, middle-Eastern guy, 34, 5'9", 150 lbs., black hair, brown eyes, light-brown skin, trim, masculine, healthy, intelligent, romantic, candlelit, sports, music, down-to-earth, and very discreet. Looking for one-to-one friendship with a black or Latino guy, who is safe, sincere, honest, masculine and top. If interested, please call at 818-242-3636 after 6:00 p.m. (27)

Skip this ad for graphic descriptions. Certainly not an S not M either. Just a mutual bonding kind of guy. Okay a few stats are only fair: GBM, 29, some say beautiful, working artist, financially independent, using this option for meeting new friends. I have a vague preference for Hispanic, white or European men around my age with more knowledge of the written word than Gold's Gym. BLK Mailbox #108. (27)

Gay male, 37, 5'9", 165 lbs., blue eyes, into classic film, music, sunset walks at the beach, seeks intelligent, aware individual for mutually-fulfilling companionship. Please call Bruce at 213-338-9695. (24)

Attractive GBM, HIV+, healthy, 5'7", 34, an appealing hunk, warm, loving, enjoys working out, movies and romantic nights. Can be extremely affectionate with the right person! I'm seeking a dominant and masculine GBM, with same qualities. You must be financially independent, ambitious and goal-oriented. Muscles not important (slim and athletic types welcomed). I'm looking for a kind and loving person who is willing to share his life with me. If you enjoy lots of attention, cuddling and fun, call Mikey 213-298-5626. (27)

Seeking advice for L.A. relocation. Box 9452, Elizabeth, NJ 07202-9992. (28)

Handsome football player, built, dude, hung long and thick 11 x 7½, seeks other hot hung for safe good times. Drake 213-734-2042. (27)

Hot, raunchy, white wants domination. Box 86651, L.A., CA 90086. (28)

Men of Color: To me, cocksucking is almost a sacrament. Allow me to accommodate your dick, giving you the service you dream about. Put me in my sling, put on a condom and slide my ass over your dickhead, and up and down your shaft. GWM, 39, 5'10", 195#, beard/moustache. 818-792-6758. (26)

Attractive GBM, HIV+, healthy, 5'7", 34, and appealing hunk, warm, loving and extremely affectionate, seeking a dominant and masculine GBM (fully equipped) with the same qualities. Muscles not important, height above 6'2" a+ (but not required). No queens, rude sissies and bar flies should dial my number. I'm seeking a serious 1-1 friendship/relationship. If you enjoy lots of affection, attention, beach, movies, exercise and romantic nights, call Jay 213-840-6398, leave your name and phone and I'll call you back. (26)

GBM, 6', 200 lbs., 40, healthy HIV+, seeks other husky stocky versatile, masculine men for friendship and sex. 1064 Myra #141, Los Angeles, CA 90029. (26)

Black dick seeks black bottoms/mouths. Box 191272, Los Angeles, 90019. (26)

WM, attractive, 31, 5'7", 135#, shoulder-length dark brown hair and eyes, gym-going, non-stereotypical, health-conscious, homebody, professional, independent, witty seeks similar white or black guy for uncomplicated pleasure. Photo/phone, descriptive letter to Jeff, c/o R.E., Box 3790, Beverly Hills, CA 90212. (26)

Cruise mate wanted for R.S.V.P. French Canadian cruise. Me: super extra goodlooking, 32 years, French Canadian, hung 9½x6½. Seek young man, same. 714-494-1114 (26)

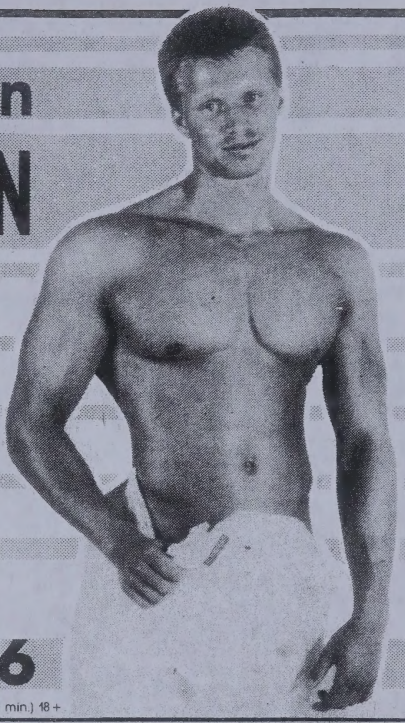
Trying again. Black male, 33 years old, attractive, looking for other males. Possible relationship. I'm 5'10", 150 lbs., a top wishing to find that special bottom. Must be 21-35 years old, attractive and black. No fats or fems. Call 213-469-5426. (26)

Let my tongue explore that hot black smooth, masculine body. Hungry, white, butch handsome male, 35, 175, 5'11" wants young very big, beefy, black, hung, straight-acting top dudes only. Black football player and construction worker types only. Check it out. Put my tongue to work. Box 46841, Los Angeles, CA 90046. (26)

GWM with a nice smile, a witty sense of humor and the boy next door charm and sexuality. Personable, hung and very goodlooking GBM, 6'2" and muscular, 198 lbs. yours for the asking. BLK Mailbox #112. (26)

Get It On With Hot Men

Call 1-900-463-4MEN



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